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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-187
Friday
25 September 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-187 *25 September 1992*

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Iraq

UN inspectors now in Baghdad to collect chemical weapons for destruction say that the government has probably "succeeded in hiding many chemical munitions" from the inspectors, according to Paris LE MONDE. Two French experts have compiled evidence from the inspection missions carried out since the Gulf war and have determined that "many signs suggest that munitions were hidden to prevent them from being inspected" and that Iraqi chemists, mainly educated in the West, are highly competent. The two experts add: "With regard to the future, there is reason to be concerned about the risk of proliferation and to consider the problems which an international monitoring body will have."

Lebanon

Mechanized Syrian forces withdrew tanks from Qnat, Hadath al-Jubbah, and Hasrun, VOL reported. The unit commander is reported to have said that he was ordered to deploy in al-Qulay'at area in 'Akkar.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabinovich Notes 'Great Degree of Progress'

TA2409184992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Little progress was reported today in the final discussions with the Syrians, but there were statements of hope alongside expressions of hard-line positions. Connie Lon reports:

[Lon] The sixth round of talks has recessed until 21 October. Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich called his talks with the Syrians the most fruitful and positive round yet. He said the parties delved into deep water and no attempts were made to blur the disagreements. He also said a joint statement with Syria would have been useful in influencing Israeli public opinion. Mr. Rabinovich was asked about the joint statement and where the gaps had been narrowed with Syria.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] It seems to us that the publication of a joint statement is not just in Israel's interest. I think that if Syria wants to move forward—and I think it now realizes fully that Israeli public opinion is very instrumental to the process, and that in order to get the process moving even further Israeli public opinion needs to be addressed in a positive fashion—such a joint statement would have served that purpose. If Syria thinks that is not the case, we will not exert any pressures to get it to do so. Everything has to be mutual. Beyond the statement, I think that we both noted mutually a great degree of progress and that we are both satisfied with it. [end recording]

Itamar Rabinovich also offered to talk directly to the Syrian media to discuss the issues and try to convince Syria to conclude a total and genuine peace treaty with Israel. [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf Blames Israel for Lack of Results

JN2409193692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has said that the sixth round of these talks, which began on 24 August, ended today without any substantive results worth mentioning. Al-'Allaf clarified that the reason such results were not achieved in this round, during which the most essential issues of peace were discussed, is that the Israeli side did not submit a binding commitment on certain bases necessary for the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region, particularly Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and its recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

Al-'Allaf noted that the Israeli side was surprised by the document submitted by the Syrian delegation during the second week of this round. He said that all sides were unanimous in agreeing that this document was important and positive. Al-'Allaf said that the Israelis pledged to come to the seventh round, which was agreed to be held in Washington on 21 October, with a more positive and more serious reply to the Syrian document so that it would be possible to make progress in the peace talks. Al-'Allaf said that the next round will last approximately one month, with a break for the U.S. presidential elections.

Answering a question on whether the reply the Israelis will bring to the seventh round is related to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, al-'Allaf said: The truth is that the most important element missing in the Israeli reply is indeed this important element of the peace process. He added: If the Israelis return to the seventh round without bringing this important element on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories, then we will miss achieving progress, just as we did during this sixth round.

In reply to another question, al-'Allaf said: The Syrian document stressed the readiness of Syria and the Arabs to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace based on Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and its recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. He added: By withdrawing from Arab territories, Israel will not be giving away something of its own, because it will be returning Arab territory to Arabs, who are its legitimate owners.

Al-'Allaf was asked to comment on what the Israelis refer to as the need for the Israeli public to see something to convince them of the Arab sides' readiness to achieve peace, and he replied: The Arab public is no less important than any other public. We are called upon by our Arab people to prove that we did not come here to relinquish our rights, but to restore our territory and to establish peace on just and honorable bases, and not relinquish our rights. Otherwise, we will be capitulating rather than achieving peace.

Al-'Allaf added: The Arab delegations provided sufficient proof of their sincere desire for peace. The Israeli Government is called upon to display such desire and readiness.

Syrian Spokesman Reviews Talks With Israel

NC2509072992 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with Bushra Kanafani, official spokesman of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Fawzi al-Jundi in the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Good morning, Mrs. Kanafani. Welcome to Voice of the Arabs. After the sixth round of the Arab-Israeli talks, what would you say about it?

[Kanafani] We made no progress in this round. We submitted a document, a draft declaration of principles.

We failed to agree on a joint declaration of principles or a joint communique. There are contradictory statements and press reports that do not express the truth about the negotiations. During this long round, the talks were left hanging on the issue of the Israeli party's failure to define a clear stand on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 242, withdrawal from the occupied Golan heights. As long as this issue remains unresolved, there can be no progress. Everything that is said in the media or elsewhere on progress or increasing expectations is not true as far as we in the negotiating room are concerned.

[Al-Jundi] Are you prepared to establish total peace with Israel should it withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights?

[Kanafani] We informed the Israeli delegation and told the media that we believe Israel should first commit itself to implementing Resolution 242, total Israeli withdrawal. Resolution 242 does not outline talk of achieving absolute peace. The Israeli side is not committed to Resolution 242 as we and the international community understand it. It wants to discuss total peace before committing itself to the resolution that is the basis of the current peace process. We also said that when Israel commits itself to this resolution, we will be ready to discuss every issue that the Israelis bring to the negotiating table. We cannot commit ourselves more right now.

[Al-Jundi] if Israel effected a partial withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, would you agree to a compromise?

[Kanafani] We declared earlier that we reject talk of a partial withdrawal. We reject talk of temporary arrangements. To achieve peace, there should be complete withdrawal and a comprehensive solution in every avenue of talks and every front of the conflict. These are two principal factors: comprehensive solution and total withdrawal.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that this position is a case of asking for the impossible to obtain what is possible?

[Kanafani] No, our proposal is realistic: There can be no peace while one inch of our land is occupied.

[Al-Jundi] To what extent does Syria adhere to a comprehensive Middle East solution in coordination with the other Arab parties to the talks?

[Kanafani] Our adherence to this issue is clear. We have declared it and will continue to uphold it. We cannot conceive of a peace with one Arab party, while the rights of another are denied. This has to do with our bond as an Arab people linked by common ground, regardless of the Arab parties conducting separate talks with Israel. This also reflects an objective perception of the future. As for the geopolitics, there can be no peace unless it is comprehensive. Comprehensive peace is a basic issue. I want to add that the peace initiative that led to the peace process, the invitations to the peace talks, and the talks the U.S. side held with the Arab parties before the Madrid conference provide for the process aiming toward a comprehensive peace. Any talk of a separate solution violates the basis of the peace initiative and the foundation of the peace process.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that Israeli intransigence during the latest round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks wasted a real opportunity for peace in the region?

[Kanafani] I do not want to say that an opportunity was (?missed), because the process is long and complicated and needs patience and efforts. It is premature to say that the opportunity was (?missed).

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that the next round of talks in the middle of October before the U.S. elections in November will simply be a formality or will it be crucial?

[Kanafani] I am not concerned with linking the next round of talks to the U.S. elections. The proposal on the next round was not made by us, but by the Israelis. We said we will discuss this issue with the other Arab parties. Another round of talks is useful. I do not believe it will be a formality. We did not come to the meetings just to talk. Today the Israeli party informed us that it will reformulate certain clauses that we put forward as a declaration of principles. Perhaps the Israeli side will bring to the next round useful ideas that may advance the peace talks.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Kanafani] Thank you.

'Progress' Noted in Palestinian-Israeli Talks

TA2409173692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The deliberations with the Palestinian delegation in Washington ended this evening in progress and agreement. Upon emerging from the talks, the head of the Palestinian delegation said that progress had been made and Israeli delegates standing by corroborated his remarks.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that this afternoon the Palestinians submitted a new proposal for a joint agenda for the talks when they resume next month. There and then, it was decided to set up a working team composed of three Israelis and three Palestinians, who at once proceeded to discuss the joint agenda. Yosi Gal, spokesman of the Israeli delegation, said the talks had ended in a good atmosphere.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, said that no time had been wasted in the sixth round of talks ending this evening. Upon emerging from the concluding session with the Israeli delegation, al-'Allaf said that it had been proven that peace between Israel and the Arab world is possible and pointed out that this historic opportunity should not be missed.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 24 September notes that "the Syrian delegation submitted clarifications to Israel about the remarks by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday. Israeli delegate Itamar Rabinovich said these were complicated and would be examined by Jerusalem."]

Jordan's al-Majali on Expectations for Next Round

JN2409191092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The latest round of talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track concluded in Washington late last night. Following the last session of talks, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that no agreement was reached on the points discussed over the two past two days regarding refugees and security. Dr. al-Majali summed up the results of the sixth round of bilateral negotiations between Arab parties and Israel—which has been the longest round so far, as it lasted more than one complete month—by saying that it has not seen any substantial progress, which is not what had been expected. However, he added, what took place is, in fact, seen as a basic phase in the talks.

Regarding his expectations about the next round, Dr. al-Majali said: The matter depends on the other side. If the Israelis have reached a final formula on a peace strategy, we may see some new behavior, and if this is not achieved, we will remain with these sorts of labor pains.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, along with a number of members of the Jordanian delegation, met today with Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, at the State Department, where they exchanged ideas and views on the current negotiations on the Jordanian track. Following the meeting, Dr. al-Majali said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] We met today with Mr. Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state, who reaffirmed the concern of President Bush, Baker, and Eagleburger and their continued support for peace. We also briefed them on what took place during this round. We all hope that the upcoming round will be more productive than this one.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the U.S. impression of the Jordanian track and its proceedings?

[Al-Majali] They believe that there has been no major progress, and we cannot say there has been any a basic change. Still, they believe that things will be better in the future.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] the U.S. Administration's role in this round, or are you demanding a greater role?

[Al-Majali] We have sensed that the U.S. Administration is more serious at this time. [end recording]

Shammas on 'Surprising' Outcome of Talks

NC2509063392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The sixth round of peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel concluded in Washington yesterday. The outcome was surprising, contradicting expectations; progress was reported in the Syrian-Israeli talks and stalemate in the others. [passage omitted]

The sixth round of peace talks between Lebanon and Israel concluded without any agreement being reached, except on holding the next round from 21 to 29 October. That seventh round will resume after the U.S. presidential elections slated for 3 November and will conclude on 17 November.

Chief Israeli delegate Uri Lubrani said the next round will cover the Israeli proposal to set up a joint military committee. The chief Lebanese delegate reiterated that the current talks' mechanism is the best. Leaving the U.S. State Department building, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas told our radio:

[Begin Shammas recording] We held the last meeting in the sixth round of Washington talks today. Naturally, this round featured very difficult meetings. We overcame certain difficulties, but we are seeking the best method of engaging in a fruitful dialogue that would push the peace process forward, even if only slightly.

The Israeli side put forward a working paper to set up a joint military working team. We discussed this paper in detail and made basic remarks on it. Our stand is fixed. Any topic that is raised, regardless of the [word indistinct] and the response, will be discussed only within the framework of the general meetings of the UN General Assembly session and the ongoing bilateral peace talks in Washington.

I did not mention this in English, but, in essence, we assess any stand or proposal put to us in light of our fixed and unfaltering stand, which stresses the need to start doing something that leads to the implementation of Resolution 425. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Surani Comments on Confederacy With Israel

NC2409110992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0956 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Jamal al-Surani, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, has described recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the possibility of setting up a confederacy between Israel and the Palestinians as an attempt to continue building Israeli settlements on occupied territory.

Rabin recently made statements that a confederacy between Israel and the Palestinians could be established.

He said that such a relationship would guarantee Israel's security and give it the opportunity to continue building settlements.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Jamal al-Surani clarified that the Palestinians do not reject a confederacy with Israel, but it should be between two states, Palestinian and Israeli, not between the state of Israel and the Palestinian people.

Jamal al-Surani said that a confederacy between the Palestinian and Israeli states requires Yitzhaq Rabin to recognize that the territories occupied by Israel are Palestinian and that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination over those territories.

He said this requires halting settlement building immediately, because Israel does not have the right to settle another country's territory by force and the pressure of occupation. He referred to the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions.

Al-Surani called for establishing a Palestinian state so that the desired confederacy can be realized.

PLO Rejects Statements on Settlement in Lebanon

LD2309193692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has announced the following: A lot of statements were made and press interviews were given recently all of which talk about the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere. What draws our attention is that the majority of those statements are made by Lebanese brothers who in the past used to reject the settlement plan [of Palestinians in Lebanon]. Why are they declaring now what they used to consider one of the taboos? Especially when they know that the PLO was and still is rejecting these offers because the PLO considers the settlement an act of abortion of the revolution, a liquidation of the Palestine question, and finally a victory for the policy of Israel and its allies—a policy that was based on usurpation, expulsion, and settlement giving legitimacy to its entity through an Arab acceptance of what it usurped including the termination of the question of Palestinian refugees through various conspiracies and crimes including the settlement which we reject in form, substance, and words.

The PLO, through its clear vision of the future of the region, rejects all these dubious projects and insists on the establishment of the Palestinian state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital, recalling that our delegation to the multilateral committee for refugees was able to secure and confirm Resolution 194 which constitutes the legitimate and political basis for finding a just solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees.

The PLO, while struggling by all ways and means to find a just settlement, calls on the various Arab sides to cooperate with it in their handling of the problem of the Palestinian refugees residing as guests in their territories, and to continue their concern for them until the problem finds its way to an honorable or an Arab and internationally accepted solution and on their free and independent land.

O faithful, be patient and steadfast and fear God so that you may succeed, God the Almighty has spoken the truth. [Koranic verse]

Iran Urged To Reconsider Stance on Abu Musa

LD2309174792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] A PLO official spokesman has stated the following: The PLO is following with extreme concern the regrettable developments between the Iranian Government and the fraternal state of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] since the Iranian forces imposed their authority over the island and expelled its Arab inhabitants.

These serious developments will not serve Arab-Iranian fraternity, and they constitute a violation of the sovereignty of the Emirates. The PLO insists on the Arabism of the island of Abu Musa and the fraternal state of the UAE's sovereignty over it. Out of its concern for Arab-Iranian fraternity, the PLO calls on the Iranian Government to reconsider its stance and to respond to the Arab stance reflected by the recent Arab League meeting in Cairo.

All 'Factions, Figures' To Be Invited To Council

PM2409134592 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "PLO Calls Its Central Council To Assess Negotiations"]

[Excerpts] Washington, Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—In the last week of the sixth round of bilateral negotiations being held in Washington the Palestinian delegation has focused on the issue of powers and authority in the transitional phase and the link between that phase and the eventual solution.

The Palestinians yesterday reemphasized in Washington that Security Council Resolution 242 must "apply to all phases" of the negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

An invitation is expected to be sent within the next two days to the various Palestinian leaderships to hold a meeting in the Tunisian capital to discuss the possibility of convening a Central Council meeting.

Sources close to the PLO have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that among the most important things it was agreed to send the invitations this time to factions and figures that have not participated in meetings held by any PLO institutions for several years—an indirect reference to the al-Sa'iqah organization, which is close to Syria, the Popular Struggle Front, former Palestine

National Council [PNC] speaker Khalid al-Fahum, and others. But the sources did not specify the date set for convening the PLO Central Council, which is the intermediary between the Executive Committee and the PNC (parliament), though it will certainly be held in Tunis like the previous sessions. [passage omitted]

Fatah Movement Members Attacked in Sidon

Officer Assassinated

NC2309192892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Gunmen assassinated Fatah Movement member First Lieutenant Nimr Dib Shibli, alias Abu-Kayid, outside his house on Zakariya Street in old Sidon at 1830 today. His body was moved to Hammud Hospital in the city.

Official 'Critically' Injured

NC2409114592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] An explosion occurred in a BMW 730 car belonging to Jihad Rashid, a member of the Fatah Movement-the Revolutionary Council, on al-Walla'ah Street in Sidon at 1230 today, critically injuring him. He has been taken to al-Walla'ah hospital.

The funeral of Fatah command member Lieutenant Colonel Nimr Shibli, [rank as heard] who was assassinated in Sidon's old quarter yesterday, took place in al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp today.

Court Sentences Abu Nidal Members to Death

NC2409173892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] A special Palestinian military court this evening handed down sentences of death by firing squad against three members of Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC, also known as the Abu Nidal Organization]. They are Ayman Ma'ad Hammud, Munir al-Haj, and Ihab Rifa'i. The court also handed down prison sentences of five and 10 years respectively for [name indistinct] and Ayman al-'Abd.

The court held its public sessions at the Yasir 'Arafat complex in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the presence of representatives of Palestinian groups and people's committees.

The five are [words indistinct] of the FRC, and were accused of (?murder) and setting explosions.

PLF's Muhammad 'Abbas Denies Detention in Iraq

NC2409140292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tunis, 24 Sep (MENA)—Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] Secretary General Muhammad 'Abbas (Abu-al-'Abbas) has denied that he recently was detained in Iraqi prisons. He affirmed that he has not disappeared at any time and has not been pursued by any Arab or Palestinian party. He expressed surprise at the media clamor fabricated by some circles following an unfounded report that he was detained in Iraq.

In an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH, he said these circles are trying to divide the Palestinian leadership and the Arab brothers. He said he was not in Iraq when these rumors were spread by quarters that oppose Arab solidarity.

Abu-al-'Abbas said Yizhaq Rabin is using a great deal of propaganda and distortion about his readiness for a comprehensive and just settlement, and that what the negotiating delegation discovered contradicted Rabin's statements. He said Rabin promised to stop the settlement building but did not fulfill this promise. He also is refusing to implement UN Security Council Resolution 242, which calls on Israel to withdraw completely from the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Regarding the peace negotiations, Abu-al-'Abbas said the negotiations have attained moral support from some states for the Palestinian people, and that the negotiations battle which the PLO is waging now is more serious than the long political [as received] battle.

He said the negotiations option should be coupled with the military option. The Palestinian people have suffered from the occupation, and they have the right to resist it through the peaceful intifadah and all means of military struggle.

He said that U.S. Democratic Party supports Israel more than George Bush's party, and the Democratic Party's program regards Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel. The Republicans also are biased toward Israel, and do not support an immediate and meticulous implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

He noted that the Israelis have received $10 billion and strategic relations in return for their alliance with the United States. The Arabs have received only promises.

Abu-al-'Abbas added that the United States has promised since the Madrid Conference to support negotiations on the basis of Resolution 242, but will not pressure Israel unless it was convinced that its interests with the Arabs are more important than its interests with Israel.

Egypt

Musa Resumes Contacts With Ministers at UN

NC2509103092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will deliver Egypt's speech to the UN General Assembly tomorrow. He will define Egypt's position on various important international and regional issues and will review Egypt's efforts to advance the peace process in the Middle East and to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

The foreign minister today resumed his contacts with foreign ministers attending the UN General Assembly session. He met the foreign ministers of Turkey, France, New Zealand, Italy, and Albania and discussed important international issues, primarily efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, the situations in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Somalia, and ways to enhance the effectiveness of international efforts to deal with these issues and find peaceful solutions to them. He also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields.

He also met UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and discussed topics on the General Assembly's agenda and the UN role in contributing to solving these issues.

Meets With Butrus-Ghali

NC2509083292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Excerpt] New York, 25 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali last night, and he stressed Egypt's determination to participate in the various activities of UN peacekeeping efforts.

Afterward, Musa said that President Husni Mubarak is keen to play this role out of his faith in the importance of supporting the UN and out of Egypt's belief in the importance of the peacekeeping process.

Musa said he exchanged views with Butrus-Ghali concerning the topics listed on the agenda of the current UN General Assembly session. He said his talks with the UN secretary general dealt with developments in the Middle East in light of the direct peace talks. He added: I have come to understand that Israel will approve the UN's participation in the multilateral negotiations. This development is an important step toward boosting the peace process. [passage omitted]

U.S. Cited on UAE Islands 'Internationalization'

NC2309071392 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Salah Badaywi]

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources stated that the U.S. Administration proposed to the Gulf Cooperation Council the internationalization [tadwil] of the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] islands to resolve the crisis with Iran.

The sources said Washington is planning to prevent a peaceful resolution of the crisis as a preliminary to sowing discord between Iran and its Arab neighbors.

While Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid appealed to the Arab states to unite to contain the crisis, Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Umran praised Tehran's statements referring to the West's role in sowing the seeds of discord between Iran and its Muslim neighbors.

While the Arab League decided to submit a memorandum to the United Nations about Iran's intervention in the UAE islands, Iran has sent an envoy to Abu Dhabi to contain the dispute without resorting to international arbitration.

Reactor To Be Imported From Argentina

NC2009075792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Egypt signed an agreement with Argentina today to import a reactor with limited capability from an Argentine specialist company to use for peaceful purposes.

Electricity and Energy Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah, who attended the signing of the agreement, stated that the new reactor's power is 22 megawatts; it will be used only to produce isotopes necessary to develop the scientific and technological infrastructure and to exploit the desert. It will also be used in nutrition, agriculture, industry, health, water resources, and basic and applied scientific research. He added that the reactor will cost 44.476 million dollars and will be operational within five years.

Atomic Energy Authority Chairman Dr. Fawzi Hammad signed for Egypt and the Argentine company's representative in Cairo signed for Argentina. [passage omitted]

U.S., Canada Oppose Imports of Chinese Reactors

NC2309110892 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi]

[Text] During the past two weeks, U.S. and Canadian officials have been holding contacts with the Egyptian Government to prevent Egypt from holding talks with China on importing small nuclear reactors. The foreign officials expressed their concern over the president's recent statements about Egypt's intention to import these reactors from China.

The U.S. side has agreed to let the American Bechtel Company cooperate with the Nuclear Reactors Authority on nuclear studies if Egypt stops its talks with China.

The Canadian side has stated that the Canadian Atomic Energy Commission will participate with Egypt in drawing up the blueprints for a 600-megawatt Candu reactor. The Canadian Atomic Energy Commission will also participate in the program for manufacturing nuclear fuel in Inshas.

A Nuclear Reactors Authority source noted that Bechtel will participate only in the studies; it will not carry out any construction work. Bechtel's presence in nuclear reactors aims to follow Egypt's nuclear activity.

Egyptian experts are viewing with concern Israel's bid to transport a 440-megawatt reactor from Russia to the Negev desert. The reactor will be located in "Shifla," 25 km from the Egyptian al-'Awjah area. The experts have said that the Foreign Ministry has asked the Nuclear Safety Center to prepare a study on the reactor's proximity to the Egyptian border and the danger of any accident at this reactor for the Suez Canal.

Al-Sharif Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC2309090992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1634 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Alexandria, 22 Sep (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, he submitted a report about the resolutions and recommendations of the Arab information ministers conference, which wound up its meetings in Cairo two days ago.

He added that the report contained the most important issues discussed bilaterally with Arab information ministers within the context of promoting media ties between Egypt and its brothers.

In a statement after the meeting, he said he briefed President Mubarak on several media policies, foremost of which is the policy to improve the performance of the Public Information Authority's foreign media so that it can keep abreast of world changes in line with Egyptian policy's priorities.

He added that President Mubarak discussed the future development of the Egyptian Space Channel [ESC] and its transmission via international satellite network in addition to the Arabsat so that this channel will be seen directly by viewers in Arab, European, and African countries.

He said President Mubarak also discussed agreements on the transmission of the ESC to several parts of the United States and that the president reviewed a project to build a media production complex on an area of over 2 million square meters in Six October City.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak will lay the foundation stone for the production complex at the end of the first stage, which includes infrastructure, workshops, stores, roads, and locations for outdoor photography.

He noted that the media production complex will be significant for international audio and video production. He said this effort comes within Egyptian media strategy to match the competition with more satellite broadcasts. He pointed out that Egypt has a responsibility to present broad and distinguished cultural and intellectual productions to the Arab world.

Al-Sharif said he briefed President Mubarak on a plan to modernize radio and television networks, including new studios for television production in Cairophone Audio and Video, and on the Egyptian news company transmission center, now that it has been completed and furnished with a modern reception, transmission, and computer equipment.

Human Rights Group on Police-Islamist Violence

NC2009050592 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Text] The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR), in a report issued on Monday, expressed "deep concern for the rapid escalation of acts of armed violence" between political Islamist groups, particularly al-Jama'ah al-Islamiya, and the security forces. As a result, EOHR said, basic human rights, including the right to life, personal liberty and security, equality and freedom from discrimination and the freedom of belief and expression, "have become threatened possibly as never before."

EOHR said its previous report on the period between 1 January and 31 July 1990 recorded incidents of armed violence involving the police and Islamist groups which claimed 42 lives. But in the corresponding period this year, as many as 48 people were killed in similar violence. "The increase in the number of persons killed is not, however, the only indication that a new and serious deterioration in the situation took place during these past months," EOHR said.

Its report said EOHR conducted nine fact finding missions during the past nine months, in a number of ares affected by armed violence. A study of the collected data and evidence pointed to the following conclusions:

—An increase in the number of persons killed at the hands of Islamist groups compared to a relative decrease in the number of persons killed at police hands.
—An increase in the number of persons killed as a result of acts of deliberate physical liquidation (executions and assassinations), with the Islamist groups being responsible for the bulk of such acts.
—Setting Egyptian Copts and intellectuals as targets for deliberate physical liquidation.

Going into the details that produced these conclusions, EOHR said that persons killed by the Islamist groups increased in number from two, during the previous period studied, to 27 during the past seven months.

The report also recorded an increase in the percentage of the victims of armed violence whose death was brought about by what were most probably acts of direct physical liquidation. This percentage rose from 50 percent in 1990 (22 out of 42) to around 60 percent during the last nine months (28 out of 48).

The percentage of assassinations at the hands of al-Jama'ah al- Islamiya rose dramatically during the past nine months. The Islamist groups were responsible for 90 percent of such incidents (three killed by the Shawkist group and 22 by al-Jama'ah al- Islamiya), the report said.

The report also spoke of "the emergence of a new group of victims of armed violence. These are Egypt's Christian citizens who have now become targeted for assassinations at the hands of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiya, which had previously found it sufficient to subject them to various forms of physical and moral abuse that largely remained short of deliberate killing," the report said. "Egyptian Copts provided the largest single group of victims of assassinations during the period under study, providing 18 out of the seven-month total of 48 killed by armed violence, and representing 66 percent of the victims of killings by Islamist groups."

The report said the circle of victims was also widened to include intellectuals and advocates of human rights and non-violence. Citing the assassination of secularist writer Dr Faraj Fudah, the report said al-Jama'ah al-Islamiya publicly took responsibility for it and also used the occasion to issue an open warning to all intellectuals.

Kuwait

British Defense Secretary Ends Talks, Departs

LD2509084892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1549 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Sep—British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and members of his delegation left Kuwait today at the end of an official three-day visit. During the visit Rifkind had talks with senior Kuwaiti officials on the bolstering and development of bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the military field.

During the visit, the British defense secretary met with his highness the amir of Kuwait and his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. Rifkind also had talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, which focused on the military fields and ways of bolstering and developing them in addition to discussing the security situation in the Gulf.

The British defense secretary is now on a Gulf tour which has so far taken him to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Rifkind was seen off by the Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim; the chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah; the under secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Faysal al-Dawud, a number of senior Kuwaiti Army officers, and the British ambassador to Kuwait.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Delegation To Visit for Trade Talks

NC2509110892 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 25 (AFP)—An Iranian delegation will soon visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for talks on trade despite a territorial dispute between the two countries, AL-KHALIJ newspaper reported Friday.

It said Iran's consul general in Dubai, Rahim Abedanzadeh [name as received], discussed the upcoming visit Thursday with director of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 'Abd-al-Ruhman Ghanim al-Mawayti.

It did not specify the date of the trip but quoted al-Mawayti as telling Abedanzadeh that the chamber would "work to ensure the success of the mission."

It would follow a visit to Iran this year by a Dubai trade delegation.

Dubai, the second largest UAE emirate, is Tehran's main commercial partner in the Gulf, with its exports and re-exports to Iran standing at around 574 million dollars in 1991 and imports at 196 million dollars.

Relations between the UAE and Iran have soured since the UAE charged that Tehran extended its control over all of Abu Musa island when it turned away a UAE boatload of over 100 people last month.

The UAE emirate of al-Shariqah and Iran have jointly run the Gulf island under a 1971 British-sponsored agreement.

Foreign Ministry officials from both countries are due to meet in Abu Dhabi Sunday to discuss the problem.

Yemen

Iraqi Delegation Arrives on Official Visit

JN2309200092 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of its Foreign Relations Bureau, arrived in Sanaa today at the head of an Iraqi delegation on an official visit to our country. During the visit, the Iraqi official will participate in our people's celebration of Yemeni Revolution's day. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives for Revolution Events

JN2309195592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Sanaa today leading a DFLP delegation on a visit to our country, during which he will participate in our people's celebrations on the anniversaries of the Yemeni 26 September and 14 October revolutions. He will also hold talks with the brothers in the political leadership on militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, and means of promoting them. This is in addition to discussing latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas. [passage omitted]

Parties Concerned About Violence Against Officials

Socialist Party Condemns Acts

JN2309195492 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee; place and date not given]

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee has followed with extreme concern the acts of violence and terrorism against the houses of brothers 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, member of the Presidential Council, chief of the Higher Elections Committee, and member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC]; brother Yahya al-'Arashi, member of the Standing Committee and minister of state for cabinet affairs; Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamzah; and the late Lieutenant General Hasan al-'Amr. It has also followed the explosive charges

which were detonated near the houses of brothers Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, commander of the Central Security Department; and brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', deputy information minister; as well as the explosive charge which went off near the building of the GPC Standing Committee; and also the crime of assassinating Shaykh Hamid Bin-'Abdallah al-'Awjahi in Sa'dah Governorate.

The Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee voices its strong condemnation of these acts of terrorism, which are primarily aimed at harming the state of unity and democracy, at flagrantly driving a wedge among the forces of unity and democracy, and at obstructing the preparations currently under way to hold general parliamentary elections, to which we all aspire as a means of the country's peaceful transition to the phase of constitutional legitimacy, and of embodying our people's option for democracy, unity, and [word indistinct].

While reiterating its condemnation of all forms of violence and terrorism, the Political Bureau renews its call on all the parties, forces, social organizations, and trade unions; and on the masses of our people, to stand as one rank to decisively confront the serial of violence by all legal and legitimate means. It also calls on all the organs in charge of protecting the forces of legitimacy to assume their responsibilities to the people, the homeland, and the state of unity and democracy. These organs are called upon to realize that the continuation of acts of terrorism is not only aimed at harming the security of citizens, but also at shaking confidence in these organs' credibility and ability to carry out their responsibilities. Therefore, we must explain to the people the results of the legal and judicial organs' investigations into the previous acts of terrorism and assassinations.

The Political Bureau is confident that eradicating terrorism and violence can only occur by way of legal and legitimate means, and by relying on the people, who stand against violence and aspire to restore security and stability and to safeguard the homeland and its future.

GPC Committee Issues Statement

JN2109165992 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] has issued a statement condemning the criminal attempts on the lives of a number of GPC leaders, saying: As part of the conspiracies hostile to our Yemeni people and our democratic political regime, which are aimed at destabilizing the homeland and disturbing public peace, criminal hands have recently made attempts on the lives of a number of GPC leaders and attempted to attack their homes.

On the evening of Friday [18 September], explosive charges were detonated near the house of brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', member of the Standing Committee and deputy information minister, and also near the house of brother Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Salih, member of the Standing Committee and commander of the Central Security Department. Also, yesterday evening, explosive charges were detonated near the house of brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, member of the Presidential Council, member of the General Committee, and chief of the Higher Elections Committee; before the house of brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, member of the Standing Committee and minister of state for cabinet affairs; and also near the house of brother Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamzah.

While condemning this criminal conduct, the GPC's General Committee is well aware that this conduct has not only targeted the lives of these strugglers from the ranks of the GPC, but also sought to encroach on the noble patriotic sentiments represented by the GPC and also on the entire democratic march, which the GPC had the honor to nourish and safeguard. This conduct also aims to hamper and obstruct the preparations currently under way for holding the general parliamentary elections on the set date before the end of the transitional period.

The GPC's General Committee deems the sinful attempt on the life of 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, who is a symbol of unity and democracy, a highly serious criminal act that is first and foremost aimed at aborting the preparations currently under way for the holding of general parliamentary elections. This attempt also aims to create a dispute over the issue among nationalist leaders and destabilize the security and stability of the country to hamper the process of construction and the democratization endeavor and keep the people from enjoying the fruits of unity and democracy.

The General Committee appeals to all leaders and cadres of political parties and organizations, as well as social organizations, to close their ranks in the face of this political violence and terrorism, which has been stepped up recently, and to guard against the dangers of the sedition meant to be ignited throughout the homeland at this critical moment. This requires a high sense of national responsibility on the part of all in order to spare the homeland the calamities of destruction and division, which are currently plaguing other countries.

The General Committee is fully confident that the competent security agencies, which are concerned with security and stability, will spare no effort in their endeavors to apprehend the perpetrators of these crimes and bring them to justice. As for the honorable sons of our people, they will do their best to aid the security organs in this endeavor and help them accomplish their tasks. As for the GPC, it will forge ahead, along with all political forces, in its efforts to safeguard the homeland's unity and protect its democratic process regardless of the difficulties entailed or the immense sacrifices that might have to be made, foremost of which is the holding of parliamentary elections as scheduled; that is, before the end of the transitional period.

Our people, who triumphed in all battles in defense of the revolution and the republic, are bound to triumph in their bid to achieve their objectives and purposes at this critical junction.

UN Inspectors Say Chemical Munitions Hidden

PM2409151092 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Sep 92 p 6

[Jacques Isnard report: "Baghdad Able To Conceal Chemical Munitions"]

[Text] A UN team of chemical weapons experts arrived in Baghdad on Monday 21 September to examine the state of progress in operations to collect Iraqi chemical weapons with a view to destroying them. According to Bernard Brunner, the head of the mission, the experts are to visit several sites to "see if the chemical weapons stockpiled there have been moved or destroyed."

The Iraqis have probably succeeded in hiding many chemical munitions from the UN inspectors, and Saddam Husayn's chemists, who are Western trained, are still there to continue to put their expertise at the service of his regime if necessary. This is the conclusion which two of the French officers, members of the UN monitoring missions on Iraq's chemical capability, have drawn and which they reveal in the latest issue of CAHIERS DE MARS, the publication for students and former students of the Military Academy.

After the Gulf conflict, the United Nations sent a series of missions to Iraq with the aim of determining as accurately as possible how the chemical arms manufacturing intallations in that country operated and hence in what conditions munitions were stockpiled. Eight French army officers and an engineer from the General Delegation for Armaments, together with allied experts, were members of five of the seven inspection missions sent by the United Nations in 1991 and 1992.

According to two of these experts, Lieutenant Colonel Alain Jacquemet and Major Patrick Dewez, who are publishing their evidence with the agreement of their superiors, "There are three main conclusions which the inspectors draw from their missions: 1—the Iraqi "vehicles" best equipped with munitions were the planes; 2—there are many signs which suggest that munitions were hidden to prevent them from being inspected; 3—Iraqi chemists, mainly educated at Western universities, have shown themselves to be highly competent, displaying efficiency and pragmatism." The article's two authors add: "With regard to the future, there is reason to be concerned about the risk of proliferation and to consider the problems which an international monitoring body will have."

Most of the munitions contain mustard gas and what the Iraqis call "sarin," a chemical agent composed of a mixture of two neurotoxins of the G family of agents. This so-called Iraqi sarin contains sarin proper (GB to use the NATO code) and an agent which is known but apparently not hitherto used for military purposes—GF—which is less volatile than sarin and has characteristics close to those of soman (GD).

Weapons Dropped From Aircraft

"The choice of a mixture of GB/GF for the Iraqi sarin," the two officers note, "corresponds to the search for greater efficacy, especially at high temperature, but it could also be a way of reducing import problems relating to the raw materials," involved in its production and less closely monitored because they are regarded as not for military use.

The Iraqis have four types of chemical munitions. First, bombs dropped by airplanes weighing between 250 and 500 kg and filled with between 60 and 150 liters of mustard gas or between 100 and 250 liters of Iraqi sarin. Second, 122mm rockets filled with Iraqi sarin. Then 155mm shells containing 3 liters of mustard gas. Finally, a few SCUD missile warheads containing 150 liters of Iraqi sarin.

"The preferred launch vehicle (in view of the volume of available agent) is obviously the airplane," the two French experts comment. "This would partly explain the nonuse of chemical weapons by the Iraqis during the Gulf operations, because the Iraqi planes were grounded from the start by allied air operations.... The chemical SCUD missiles are equipped with warheads manufactured by the Iraqis. These warheads, because of their design, do not seem capable of tolerating the rise in temperature linked to the missile's reentry into the atmosphere."

From their inspection in Falujah and Muthanna, a series of sites around 60km west and 100km north of Baghdad, which produce chlorine and pesticides for both civilian and military use, the two officers report that Iraq is without chlorine for the purification of drinking water. In addition, the United Nations is refusing Saddam Husayn the right to resume production of this substance. One of the effects of this measure in Iraq is that "water distribution networks have become polluted for lack of chlorine" and this is leading to "the appearance of many diseases which are difficult to treat, for lack of drugs, because the pharmacies are very short of supplies."

Details of Opposition Meeting in Irbil Reported

Thursday's Session Outlined

NC2409155692 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By Clare Pointon]

[Text] Salah-al-Din, Iraq, Sept 24 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition groups on Thursday held a first session of talks in Kurdish-held northern Iraq to prepare for a top-level conference that would forge a common front against President Saddam Husayn.

The two-hour meeting between Kurdish, Shiite, Arab nationalist, Turkoman, tribal and independent groups as well dissidents of the ruling Ba'th Party achieved "good results," said a Kurdish spokesman for the meeting.

Kamal Fu'ad of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said representatives had decided to set up a committee to supervise the opposition's work and prepare for a top-level conference in the region within three or four weeks.

Security was stepped up for the meeting in a hilltop guest house in Salah-al-Din, stronghold of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Mas'ud Barzani. Peshmerga fighters manned checkpoints and Land Cruisers equipped with heavy machine-guns were parked outside as delegates in Arab headdress and robes, military uniform or suits arrived at the gates.

Eighteen delegates from the splintered opposition were taking part in the talks, including a member representing Iraqi tribes.

Fu'ad said the initial session had decided the June opposition conference in Vienna—boycotted by Shiite groups—should be the basis for any future opposition structure. The conference had agreed on the right of the Kurds to self-determination within a federated Iraq, he said, warning that "without federalism, there can be no conference" uniting the opposition.

Shiite Muslim fundamentalist groups have been hesitant to recognize the call for a federation from the non-Arab Kurds and previously steered clear of other secular opposition groups.

Muhammad al-Haydari, representative here of the Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), stressed his group was not against federalism as a principle. But a decision should be left to the Iraqi people at a later date, he said.

Apart from al-Haydari, Syrian-based Ba'th dissident Mahdi al-'Ubaydi and Ahmad Shalabi, coordinator of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) set up in Vienna, were also in Salah-al-Din. The INC was established with the goal of overthrowing Saddam and as the basis of a government-in-waiting.

For the Kurdish side, there were representatives of the three main political parties: the KDP, PUK and the Unity Party of Kurdistan. Also present were the Damascus-based Shiite movements al-Da'wah and the Islamic Action Organization.

The meetings will be alternately chaired by Barzani and Talabani, the PUK leader, who have both returned to the region from a tour of Western capitals.

Allied warplanes have protected Kurds in northern Iraq since last year, and the region now has its own Kurdish parliament and government, both dismissed as illegal by the Baghdad authorities.

PUK Radio Lists Participants

NC2409185792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1719 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Unidentified correspondent's dispatch from Salah-al-Din on the Iraqi opposition parties meeting—read by announcer]

[Text] The Iraqi opposition groups today continued their meetings which began yesterday in Salah-al-Din resort. The session began at 1200 with 18 people representing more than [words indistinct] opposed to the regime in Baghdad in addition to brother Jalal Talabani [words indistinct] brother Mas'ud Barzani during today's session. Then brother Talabani chaired the session.

Following the meeting, which lasted more than two hours, Dr. Kamal Fu'ad, member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Political Bureau and representative of the Kurdistan Front in the expanded opposition meeting, told foreign and local correspondents that the conferees agreed on the agenda of the expanded meeting of the Iraqi opposition and also agreed to regard the Vienna conference of June 1992 as the basis for their meetings.

Dr. Fu'ad added: At today's meeting some parties proposed an expansion of the Iraqi national conference and the holding of an expanded meeting in the very near future to elect a committee that will implement the resolutions issued by the current meeting in Salah-al-Din. Dr. Fu'ad went on to say: We are now busy preparing the resolutions and ways of implementing them. He said: A cordial and fraternal atmosphere prevailed in the meeting and I believe that the conference will succeed and that the other opposition groups will approve the Kurdistan Front's proposals.

Here, dear listeners, are the names of those participating in these meetings representing the Iraqi opposition:

[Muhammad] al-Haydari from the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq;

Dr. al-Ja'fari from the al-Da'wah Party;

Shaykh Husayn from the Islamic Action Organization;

Abu-Nur from the Islamic Turkoman Union;

Major General Hasan al-Naqib from the Independent Iraqi Council— Arab Nationalists [al-Hay'ah al-'Iraqiyah al-Mustaqillah—al- Qawmiyun al-'Arab];

Abu-Salah, from the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party—Iraqi region command;

Abu-'Urubah from the Socialist Party;

Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi and Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum from the Vienna Conference [Iraqi National Congress];

Qayad 'Allawi and Dr. Shafiq Qazzaz from the Free Iraq Council;

Rashid al-Hadithi from the Democratic Accord [al-Wifaq al- Dimoqrati];

Dr. Muzaffar Qasalan from the Iraqi Turkoman National Party;

Abu-Talal from the Iraqi Tribes Council;

Dr. Kamal Fu'ad and Dr. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman from the Kurdistan Front;

Ya'qub Yusuf from the Assyrian Democratic Movement; and

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ajilah from the Iraqi Communist Party.

Barzani Addresses Session

JN2409184692 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani, leader of our party [Kurdistan Democratic Party], has opened the second session of the Iraqi opposition meeting with a valuable speech. Jalal Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] then chaired the session. The conferees agreed on an agenda for the meeting and discussed the results of the conference held mid-June in Vienna, Austria.

Our party leader, comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani, opened the first session of the Iraqi opposition meeting at 1230 on 23 September with a valuable speech welcoming the participating delegations.

This is the first meeting in which factions of the Iraqi opposition have gathered on Iraqi territory. Delegates from more than 30 opposition parties and organizations, representing all trends, are participating in the meeting.

UN Urged to Set Up 'Safe Haven' in South

NC2509074292 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Salah-al-Din, Iraq, Sept 25 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition delegates have called on the United Nations to set up a safe haven in the south of Iraq similar to the one set up to protect Kurds in the north, Kurdistan Front spokesman Falik al-Din Kakayi said here.

The call was in a resolution adopted Thursday by an 18-strong committee of delegates from a broad range of Iraqi opposition groups meeting here.

It said all Iraqi military forces should be ordered to withdraw from the area south of the 32nd parallel, where the allies have imposed an exclusion zone barring Iraqi aircraft, Iraqi Communist delegate Rahim Jina said.

The allied protection zone in the north protects the Kurdish population from Iraqi air and ground forces, and has allowed the Kurds to set up their own parliament.

Jina said the resolution also asked the international community to send food and humanitarian aid to the population in the south.

The resolution called for Arab League backing, stressing that the move was not intended to be a step towards the ultimate break-up of Iraq.

The opposition delegates were holding a second round of talks Friday in a hilltop guest house in Salah-al-Din, stronghold of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Mas'ud Barzani.

Thursday's first session between Kurdish, Shiite, Arab nationalist, Turkmen, tribal and independent groups as well as dissidents of the ruling Ba'th party achieved "good results," a Kurdish spokesman said.

Iraq's opposition groups are aiming to form a common front in their struggle to oust President Saddam Husayn.

Turkomen Leader Explains Boycott

TA2409194792 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Representatives of opposition groups to the Iraqi administration have met in Northern Iraq to solve their differences and establish a joint front. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi Turkoman Unity Party has not sent a representative to the meeting. Party Leader Ahmet Gunes, in a statement in Lefkose [Nicosia], said that his party was sure that the other groups would not grant it any rights at the meeting. Gunes added that his party cannot tolerate to be treated as a minority and that, therefore, it was decided not to attend the meeting.

Hizballah Radio Urges Unity

NC2509082592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] A conference embracing the majority of the Iraqi parties, factions, and Islamic organizations opposed to Saddam's regime, which destroyed the country of the two rivers, began yesterday in the Iraqi city of Salah-al-Din in Iraq's Kurdish area.

This conference has special significance. Apart from being the first on Iraqi territory—all previous expanded meetings were held abroad, the last in Beirut in 1991—it will be a prologue to an expanded meeting in October. This conference, embracing Sunni, Shiite, Kurdish, and Arab parties and patriotic figures, will establish common principles for a united action against the tyrant's regime.

The Iraqi opposition is essentially a group of different opposition factions with nothing in common in viewpoint, vision, and goals. Although largely different, they agree on the need to overthrow the ruling regime in Baghdad.

Despite the painful defeat of the Iraqi Army, when Western allied troops expelled it from Kuwait, the Iraqi opposition has failed to build a united front against Saddam. Indeed, successive developments in Iraq made the future of the entire region uncertain, particularly after the Western allied troops carved out a security zone for Kurds, a zone practically out of the control of the central authority in Baghdad. Kurdish parliamentary elections under the two major parties formed a Kurdish coalition government and the Kurds are currently trying to set up an independent Kurdish army in northern Iraq.

The air embargo imposed by the Western allied troops on the Iraqi air force in southern Iraq will pave the way for changes and measures similar to those that took place in the north.

Creating two regions in north and south Iraq has caused concern among regional countries, which fear that Iraq might be partitioned.

The Iraqi opposition is asked to drive out the threat of national and sectarian partition, to rise above every little difference, to shout out that they oppose Iraq's partition, and to work seriously to step up resistance against the unjust regime in Baghdad.

We believe that Iraq's future will be determined in light of the conference outcome. The Iraqi opposition can now, more than ever, deter the hazards threatening that fraternal country.

KDP Official Comments on Talks

LD2409230492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Vienna, 23 Sep (KUNA)—A prominent Kurdish official in the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] said that the meeting of opposition parties in the city of Irbil, Northern Iraq, "is not a new alternative congress to the Iraqi National Congress of opposition parties, which was held last June in Vienna." Hushyar Zibari, one of the senior aids to the leader of the Kurdish party led by Mas'ud Barzani, said in an interview with KUNA here today that the meeting only aims at widening the representative base of the Iraqi opposition in the Iraqi National Congress, and is not a call for the holding of a new congress or a new axis for the Iraqi opposition. He confirmed that Barzani, who called for the convening of the meeting, rejects any new congress of the Iraqi opposition forces, and any joint initiative on action against the regime of Saddam Husayn outside the framework of what was agreed on at the Vienna conference of the Iraqi opposition forces.

He said that the absence of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] and the joint action committee in Syria had without doubt affected the Vienna conference, and that the Irbil meeting aims at achieving a basis for enabling representation of these factions and at winning their support for the Vienna resolutions.

The Kurdish official said that the talks held by the delegation of the Iraqi National Congress in Washington, Paris, and London proved that the Vienna conference enjoys the support of the states which have the say, and the need for a widened meeting to win over the factions which did not attend the Vienna conference of the Iraqi National Congress.

Zibari said that if the Irbil meeting ends with an agreement in principle by all the factions of the Iraqi opposition to join the structures and resolutions of the National Iraqi Congress in Vienna, then another meeting will follow that of Irbil. He said that the Iraqi personalities invited to attend the Irbil meeting include Sa'd Salih Jabr and 'Adib al-Jadir from the Iraqi Consultative body, as well as leaders of the principal factions which failed to attend the Vienna conference.

He added that Irbil was chosen as the venue for the conference because it is the second capital of Iraq after Baghdad in terms of administrative and political division.

Asked about the extent of the Kurds' readiness to place the "liberated" territories in Iraqi Kurdistan under the disposal of the Iraqi opposition for use in waging joint military action against the regime, the Kurdish official said that the Kurdistan Front had previously proposed this to the Americans and the Arabs.

But, he added that this readiness was dependent on several conditions, namely, the presence of the Iraqi opposition on the soil of Iraq internally and not abroad because the latter would rob it of credibility before the Iraqi people.

According to what Zibari said, among the other main conditions for using the territories of Kurdistan to fight the [Iraqi] regime were the Iraqi opposition forces' commitment to their presence in the arena and assumption of their responsibilities, the continuation of international protection in the region to repel any armed attacks by the Iraqi regime's forces against Kurds and support from the region's countries and other external forces for the Kurdish administration to stand on its own two feet so that it would become capable of depending on itself, and military and political support for the Iraqi opposition as a whole.

Regarding the coincidence of the Irbil meeting with the announcement on the establishment of a unified Kurdish army, Zibari said that that plan had been submitted a long time ago with the aim of dissolving the Kurdish militia and controlling the security situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. He estimated that the Kurdish army which is to be established would have around 200,000 men. He said that the Barzani-led KDP has around 150,000 men compared to 100,000 men of Jalal Talabani's party [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan], as well as the militia belonging to other small Kurdish parties and groups in the arena.

'Federalism' Stand Questioned

NC2409200092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1712 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Station commentary: "Federalism and the Iraqi Opposition Meetings"]

[Text] One of the issues the Iraqi parties and political figures are discussing at the Iraqi opposition meeting in Iraqi Kurdistan is federalism in Iraq, on which the Kurdistan Front insists.

Why federalism, and which parties oppose this idea?

None of the Iraqi opposition parties so far have categorically rejected the notion of a federal system in Iraq. But according to news agencies and international radios, some Islamic organizations have reservations [words indistinct].

The Kurdish parties, which proposed the idea, have their own justifications and they want the other parties to state their stands on this question clearly, thus proving how serious and (?reasonable) the Iraqi opposition parties are about solving Iraq's domestic and foreign problems. The majority of the various Iraqi parties undoubtedly in the past took a negative stand on the just constitutional democratic struggle waged by the Kurdish people. This stand was dictated by a number of intellectual, regional, and international circumstances and factors and thus made rapprochement between the Iraqi opposition parties and movements impossible. This was not in the interest of the Kurdish cause, which was obscured and isolated inside the country and at the international level. Instead of taking a cordial stand supportive of the Kurdish problem as the cause of a persecuted people deprived of basic national and human rights, the intellectual, enlightened, and revolutionary Arabs adopted views on the Kurdish cause that were identical to the ideas, opinions, and policies of the Ba'th Party. This created a broad base in Iraq that loathed all Kurdish calls and proposals, which were considered moves toward secession. Consequently, the Kurdish movement was accused of being the agent of Zionism and imperialism, which seek to fragment the Arab nation and antagonize the revolutionary progressive regime in Iraq.

The various Iraqi parties are called on to prove that they are the masters of their political decisions without interference from other parties and countries that do not care about the Iraqi citizens' happiness. Any steps they take must be according to one criteria only: a single policy that revolves around the interests of Iraq and the Iraqis, without any differences, exceptions, or pretexts.

Experience has shown that a voluntary union between any two peoples is a better guarantee for the unity of any country than a compulsory union based on the denial of rights and deception, and which in the final analysis benefits no regime. Such a compulsory union would be fragile and liable to collapse at any moment.

In Kurdistan now there is an elected parliament and a cabinet which is managing Kurdistan's affairs despite the difficult economic and social conditions. The Kurdistan government and people have no plans or intentions to secede from Iraq. Everyone also realizes that conditions do not lend themselves to such a move, neither at the domestic, regional, or international level.

Therefore, the fears and doubts raised by some Iraqi opposition parties are out of place and could be interpreted as bad intentions or policies imposed by foreign parties that do not care about the unity of the Iraqi opposition forces or the Iraqis' interests.

Yet, we cannot ignore the great change in the ideas and policies of many of the Iraqi opposition parties which have been honed by experience and positively influenced by the quick and successive developments and changes in the world. This qualifies them to lead a democratic and free Iraq. Therefore, an agreement reached by the Iraqi opposition during its conference will increase its strength and cohesiveness and will make its goal of toppling Iraq's dictator and his regime easy to achieve. It will increase the confidence of the Iraqi masses and all peoples and countries in the opposition and also increase their support. These masses and peoples also want to eliminate the dictatorial regime in Iraq, which has become a pit of tension and continuous troubles in the region.

Speaker on Embargo, Kuwait's 'Aggression'

PM2409110692 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 23 Sep 92 p12

[Interview with Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih, Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, by Marco Ventura in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] Baghdad—"Thousands of Iranian pasdaran have infiltrated the southern marshes. They are in hiding and it is virtually impossible to drive them out: Since the United States, Britain, and France prohibited flights by our planes south of the 32d parallel, we can no longer detect them by air reconnaissance. We must limit ourselves to confining them where they are and repulsing their attacks."

Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, was receiving the Italian parliamentary delegation headed by Christian Democrat deputy Roberto Formigoni. Small, with a moustache and a thin face, wearing a green military uniform like all the regime's "top men," Salih spoke calmly and in a relaxed way, his hands folded on his knees in a comfortable armchair in the parliament building. There was no sign of the war here. Workmen watered and swept the marble courtyards full of fountains. Above Salih's head, on the wall, was a picture of a smiling Saddam Husayn.

Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih was enthusiastic about the Italian visit. Formigoni admitted in front of the journalists: "In a way our initiative violates the embargo against Iraq,

which we think no longer has any moral, legal, or political basis." The speaker of parliament welcomed him with open arms: "Thank you so much. Thank you for having helped to release some of Iraq's frozen assets in Italy (17 percent of the sum liable to be frozen according to the UN decree—IL GIORNALE editor's note). Thank you for your sensitivity toward our people who are suffering as a result of an unacceptable embargo. The only reason for these sanctions is political. America and its allies, exploiting the suffering of the Iraqis, are really seeking the overthrow of the legitimate government, which is contrary to the UN charter, and are trying to control the oil resources. The real situation is simple: We want to sell oil in exchange for equipment for development, whereas the United States wants to buy it with its industrial products."

He made an appeal: "Italy is a very friendly country, and we therefore wonder why it does not send a diplomatic mission or even a trade mission to Baghdad. We have representation in Rome. You have opened a door here. Help us to have the embargo lifted. We withdrew from Kuwait 18 months ago, so why are the sanctions being stepped up rather than reduced?"

The Iraqi was eloquent, arguing his case strongly. He answered all the journalists' questions.

[Ventura] The embargo is partly motivated by the Iraqi attitude toward the UN delegates tasked with monitoring implementation....

[Salih] We have cooperated and will continue to cooperate as much as we can with the UN inspectors. The last time one of their delegations came to Baghdad, Maurizio Zifferero, its head, recognized that we are not only cooperating but that our nuclear programs have been completely stopped. However, the Americans launched Operation Southern Watch.

[Ventura] Against the Iraqi repression of the Shi'ites....

[Salih] Both in the south and in the north which is inhabited by the Kurds, the motive for the intervention is different. It has nothing to do with repression, the intention is to change our political system.

[Ventura] Is it possible for it not to change, despite the futile war in Kuwait?

[Salih] It is obvious that the Iraqi people want to keep their leaders. If they had lost faith in us, they would have rebelled. As speaker of parliament, I am convinced that the people agree with the action taken against Kuwait and know that Kuwait is historically part of our country. We, however, accepted the UN resolutions which imposed withdrawal.

[Ventura] Does that mean that you will not try to invade it again?

[Salih] It means what I said: We accepted the UN resolutions.

[Ventura] What percentage of Iraqi territory is now controlled by government forces?

[Salih] Immediately after the war, all of it. Then we withdrew from a small strip of land in the north because of the allies' direct intervention. It is a new form of colonialism. And yet, the disintegration of Iraq (with a Shiite south, a Kurdish north, and Saddam in the center—IL GIORNALE editor's note) should not be in the West's interests, it would cause disintegration and instability throughout the region.

[Ventura] How long can you withstand the embargo?

[Salih] Iraq has experienced so much in its history, without the resources we now have: epidemics, wars, natural disasters. We will survive the embargo and will continue to make our presence felt. Unfortunately however, the sanctions will have an extremely severe impact on the weakest—old people and children. Humanity cannot allow it, abandoning at a stroke all its values. Furthermore, the allies must know that if the embargo is not lifted, the Iraqi people will rally even more closely around their leaders.

[Ventura] There is once again a tense situation in the Gulf. Iran is claiming three small islands, the Emirates are accusing Tehran of having occupied them, you have offered protection against Iran....

[Salih] As a principle, we think we should have peaceful relations with all our neighbors. However, we have warned against Iranian expansionism and nobody listened to us. The occupation of Abu-Musa island is an example, it is an act which we reject. It means that Iran has not learned the lesson of history. Iraq has always stood by Arab brothers when they were challenged and has always encouraged peaceful solutions.

[Ventura] Was the invasion of Kuwait a peaceful gesture?

[Salih] It was Kuwait which attacked us. President Saddam Husayn said that loud and clear in Baghdad before the conflict to all the Arab leaders: The American-inspired plan carried out by Kuwait to strangle Iraq economically amounts to a declaration of war. At the time we had emerged from eight years of war with Iran and we had to rebuild the country. We were acting in self-defense.

Al-Tikriti Urges Encouraging Private Sector

JN2309153692 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 92 p 6

[Barzan al-Tikriti article: "Simply and Clearly"]

[Text] Our current economic situation needs a great deal of arranging, precise scientific planning, and quick reaction. This means we should keep away from bureaucracy, which harms the economy and which any economy cannot accommodate even under normal circumstances.

The one other important thing is solidarity between the state and the private sector, but not with the upstarts in the profession or in the private sector because they do not care about the profession's code of honor and its prestige as do those who inherited this profession from their fathers and grandfathers. They are well aware of the national and ethical commitment they should have toward their fellow citizens and toward their homeland which is experiencing difficult, if not crucial circumstances.

From this premise, I find myself obliged to say that the confusion our country has been experiencing in this field for some time, particularly since the aggression, has been caused by the parasitic class which forced itself on the profession, and by the unjust circumstances brought about by the aggression and the blockade which helped these parasites flourish. We must also frankly admit that another cause that helped the development of this parasitic class within this sector has been the absence of measures and clear guidelines regulating those who carry out activities within this sector. Logic and reasonable profits have been replaced by the search for easy money and quick profits at the expense of our people's present and future. Those who behaved in this manner have forgotten that they are unconsciously harming their country and exacerbating the living conditions of their fellow countrymen in the low-income bracket, not to mention another crime, which is no less serious, that of helping the enemies in their schemes to force the homeland to give in. No official or ordinary citizen who is loyal, aware of the interest of his people and country, and cognizant of the circumstances the Iraqi people and Iraq are experiencing accepts being part of this scheme.

I do not want to delve further into elementary matters which are known by every loyal citizen who has a modicum of understanding of what nationalism means. This is also known by the real people in the profession who, through their behavior, embody the honor of the profession whether on the level of trading, marketing, or the other services. Most of us still recall how in the early sixties services used to reach us at home with the help of mobile workshops which used to be sent to repair the television set, or the refrigarotor, as well as the air conditioner which was not used on a large scale at that time and which was not known by most of the people.

These small services, which have great importance and significance, were the result of Iraqi efforts, despite the fact that Iraq at the time was different from Iraq in the 1980's and mid-1970's in terms of standard of living, national income, and size of the population. Iraq's population was smaller and the country was poor. In the 1980's, in fact in the mid-1970's, Iraq's population as well as capabilities became larger. In fact, it became rich in resources, which increased after nationalizing its oil. We have to remind some people here that the nationalization of oil is one of the great achievements of the great July revolution, which was led and planned by leader President Saddam Husayn.

However, we notice today the absence of these services, which used to reach houses and facilitate citizens' daily lives.

To start with, we say that this (luxury) was gone when mixed and private companies were nationalized by the 'Arif regime that came prior to the July 1968 revolution. The state undertook responsibility for the services sector which was run by the private sector. Afterwards, creations began. The African company was taken over and transformed into a helpless company. A company for precision instruments was also created, etc. Since then, things have changed. If one's television or refrigerator does not work, one has to rent a car to transport the appliance that needs repair to the African company. At the company, one has to smile and try to be very courteous in the hope that they will take pity on him and do him a favor by taking the appliance and repairing it. On many occasions, some mistakes are made, and then one has to go to all that trouble again. Earlier, people used to have their televisions repaired at home. Also, a general company for automobiles was created. Since then, all things became confused. Confusion takes place when one buys a car for his personal use. By the way, a car is no longer a luxury item; it is a basic need. A citizen goes to the general company for automobiles, registers his name and pays part of the price for the car he wants to buy. Of course, he has to pay half the price in advance, which is several thousand precious dinars. At the same time, what is the fate of these sums of money, which amount to millions? How are they going to be repaid to citizens? Is there interest added to the price? Why were these sums of money not returned to the people at the time? Of course, registration conditions state that a citizen and his wife may not get a car from the company over the past three or five years, and that a citizen cannot choose the model, size, or color of the car he wants. The citizen keeps waiting, and he might wait for years. At the same time, confusion spread with regard to providing spare parts and repair work, because the general company also opened workshops for repairs. Every car has to go to these workshops, where you can only try to be courteous to the workers starting with the chief and ending with the mechanic who will service or repair your car.

Even worse is the absence of guidelines to regulate car imports with respect to model, size, and origin. We all know that the company imported cars from Japan, Brazil, Russia, and Poland. Why was that? We don't know or, at any rate, I don't. These are examples of the chaos that hit these sectors as a result of state intervention, beginning with nationalization of companies and ending with its attempts to do business itself. Let me try now to touch briefly on the notion of free enterprise and the private sector, and the relationship between the private sector and the state, specifically as of 1987. I dare say that the behavior of the private sector, the emergence of parasites, and other factors that I referred to, are attributable to the fact that the government's relationship with the private sector was akin to a civil marriage.

In contrast its relationship with the public sector is something like marriage according to Islamic Shari'ah. It was this discrimination that prevented the Iraqi economy from taking off before the current circumstances.

It is known that while a legitimate wife goes into the house through the front door, the common wife uses the back door. A man takes care not to be seen with a common wife with whom he meets in the dark. It is vital that the government deal with the private sector the way a man does a legitimate wife. In fairness to the government, it must be said that the state embarked on such a relationship beginning in 1987 when it raised the slogan of the private sector, provided that the latter stay clear of exploitative practices. However, untoward circumstances brought the program to an abrupt halt. We are confident and hopeful that things will be back on the right track as soon as the time is right. We will then have learned from experience. Dynamic nations learn from hard times and they put the lessons to good use in normal times.

At the same time, the private sector must know that it will ultimately win out, and that the world, including ourselves, is headed in the direction of the private sector. Even Russia pronounced the public sector dead and heralded the emergence of the private sector. I am not advocating an outright switch from the public to the private sector. What I am saying is that, in the public interest, the state should retain ownership and control of the heavy industries and such services as electricity. To my mind the success or otherwise of the private sector is subject to whether it is regarded positively or by the green-eyed monster. Some people feel that the private sector is a ripoff. The private sector ought to be governed by rules and laws which it must observe and honor.

Truly professional people must curb extraneous elements; put them to a difficult, comprehensive test; and compel them to pass through several stages to prove efficiency and good conduct in order to start, like others, after passing the test. Almighty God says: Verily those who say, "Our Lord is God," and remain firm on that path, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve [koranic verse]. Of course, the private sector needs government support at this particular time, as the government is dutybound to assist it because without such a support, true professionals cannot curb the newcomers.

Those who are involved in this profession should protect its reputation, just as they protect the reputation of their fathers and grandfathers, who bequeathed it to their sons and grandsons. These principles are known to the true professionals, but I have to mention them because of the large numbers of "skyrockets," who entered this profession after quitting their professions and specialties in order to quickly reach certain social statuses, regardless of the path they take or what others may say about them. Of course, this is wrong. They should know that the path they took was a subject of much social, professional, and political criticism, which will become a stumbling block sooner or later and that what is brought by wind will be taken away by the tempest. The private sector should rely on itself, not on the government, in order to succeed. It should learn how to stand on its own two feet rather than relying on the government. The less government interferes in the private sector's work, the more this sector will succeed and prosper. If the private sector is supported by the government, is not restrained, and is blessed by people, it can make a decision within an hour, while the public sector will need several years and at best several months to do so.

Therefore, I reaffirm that the future is for the private sector, and all that this sector is required to do is to direct its attention to its homeland and people under these circumstances and should always remember that its homeland is rich and generous, that its people are richer and more generous, and that the wealth, which arouses people's doubts, is valueless.

The private sector is now required to offer good and cheap commodities. People are no longer able to pay high prices under the current economic circumstances. It should present goods at reasonable prices. I believe that it is better for the Trade Ministry to directly receive imported materials, in return for a percentage of profit agreed on with the importers, and the Trade Ministry will distribute these materials through agents or others.

The other thing, which will contribute to the progress of work, to overcoming difficulties, and to expediting a positive reaction is the establishment of an economic operation room in which a number of experienced Iraqi businessmen participate with officials in the decision-making. By doing so, the decision will be complete, integrated, and realistic. The decision cannot be realistic unless experienced people participate in making it. The competent authorities should not put thorns, obstacles, and difficulties in the way of the private sector. It should give it freedom to work and then control it by specialized and experienced people who can tell what is right and what is wrong. In fact, these people should also know the degree of error, and whether it necessitates the government's interference or not. These are important and necessary factors which are required to reassure workers in this sector instead of placing them under the mercy of inexperienced interpretations.

We know that the private sector needs all kinds of stability, particularly stability in laws and regulations. At the same time, immature interpretations should be reduced. The government and the competent authorities should not surprise the private sector with new laws and regulations which would confuse its work and calculations. The government should deal with the private sector as a clean customer after this sector purges itself of the parasitic class, which is an alien to it. After all, the government should not deal with this sector as a thief until it proves otherwise. If it is proven to be a thief, then there should be no maneuvering or postponement until the next year. Moreover, the government should adopt the instructions of leader President Saddam Husayn in

letter and spirit through laws and instructions. The government should not leave the private sector to the mercy of arbitrary taxes. The government should not be a frightening ghost which annoys the private sector during day time and terrifies it at night. We want the private sector to become a legal wife, and the government the father who guides with the experience he gained as a result of the circumstances through which no government in the region, and in fact in the world, has passed.

Aloni's Remarks on Golan Heights Strain Coalition

Says Rabin Will Return Entire Golan

TA2509095792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 25 Sep 92 pp 1, 2, 20

[Interview with Education Minister Shulamit Aloni by Dan Shilon; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shilon] What would make you quit the government?

[Aloni] Political issues, mainly. I am prepared to stomach laws of religious coercion and I am prepared to swallow a few things I do not like on the issue of human rights, but if we have an opportunity to bring peace to this land and this is missed due to pressures, you will not find me in the government.

Take the Golan, for example. I very much respect the people who live there. They were sent there by various political movements. Although they did not usurp anybody's land, they are very distressed because if we reach a peace agreement and establish diplomatic relations with Damascus we will have to come to terms with the fact that according to international law the Golan is not ours. At the same time, I would make every possible effort to reach an agreement with the Syrians about leasing arrangements. Precedents to this effect exist worldwide.

[Shilon] You know very well that al-Asad wants the entire Golan Heights, and that he will not make peace with Israel if it is not returned to him in full. These days, Rabin keeps reminding the Likud that Egypt made peace with Israel only after it got back the Sinai, down to the last grain of sand. Would you agree to give back the entire Golan Heights in exchange for full peace?

[Aloni] Yes. I would agree to give back the entire Golan Heights to al-Asad in exchange for full peace, coupled with security guarantees, and all that that involves. I hope there will be no need to destroy anything or repeat the precedent of Yamit. I hope we will manage to work out a trade-in deal. We may have a few things to give the Syrians to enable them to leave the settlements as is.

[Shilon] Do you see eye to eye with Rabin on the issue?

[Aloni] I think Rabin is very distressed over the Golan Heights. He has an outstanding commitment to the people who live there, while I do not have such commitments. I voted against the Golan Law. I thought it was unnecessary, both practically and legally.

[Shilon] So, may we take this to mean that the negotiations with Syria will lead to the disbandment of the coalition?

[Aloni] No, I do not think so. I assume that if Syria agrees to full peace, Rabin will confront his people and tell them: Absolutely, this is what we will do.

[Shilon] In other words, will Rabin hand back the entire Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Syria?

[Aloni] Yes. Yitzhaq Rabin will agree to give back the entire Golan Heights in exchange for full peace. He will agree to it gradually, because Syria has not set a timetable. The principle will be agreed and then a timetable will be set that will enable us to look for legal formulas to solve the problems.

Rabin Reportedly Angry

TA2409184692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is angry over the remarks made by Education Minister Shulamit Aloni. Mr. Rabin objects to the content of her remarks and the way she chose to make them. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has been told that the prime minister spoke on various occasions to Mrs. Aloni about her statements and voiced his misgivings. In a meeting with office workers at Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv, Mr. Rabin said: I have become a firefighter, extinguishing fires set off by people saying all sorts of things. The prime minister intends to confer with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, the spiritual leader of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to discuss the education minister's remarks.

Interior Minister Arye Der'i has said it was a mistake to entrust the Education Ministry to Mrs. Aloni. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that Minister Der'i made these remarks during a tour of the Golan Heights. In his opinion, the education minister's willingness to meet the Council of Torah Sages is just for show.

Ministers Ya'ir Tzaban and Amnon Rubinstein, Aloni's colleagues in Meretz, have set out in her defense. They told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich that Mrs. Aloni's words had been distorted by the vociferous onslaught against her.

'Coalition Crisis' Feared

TA2409182792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Education Minister Shulamit Aloni says there is no cause for the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party to leave the government over her recent statements. Speaking in Herzliyya, Aloni accused journalists, with the aid of the National Religious Party [NRP], of deliberately taking her statements out of context. Looking into the latest uproar over the education minister's statements is reporter Harley Braidman:

[Begin recording] Shulamit Aloni's latest statement outraging the religious community concerned Yizkor memorial prayer, when she advocated changing the word.ng May God Remember the Fallen to May the Jewish People Remember. Aloni accused the journalists of ignorance by quoting her remarks out of context. They are waiting for me in the corner to trip me up. When I say that El Male Rahamim [Most Merciful God] be added to

the Yizkor prayer, they say I am wounding God, whilst in fact, Interior Minister Der'i should have been happy that I had proposed adding the words Most Merciful God to the prayer.

Aloni accused the NRP of being behind the attacks on her because it believed it ought to be still in power and she should retain its protectionist [nepotistic] appointments. However, SHAS leader Arye Der'i told Israel radio Aloni had become the scourge of education. Her latest statements had broken the camel's back by making consistent antireligious statements almost daily since she had taken office, and these had severely harmed Jewish values. [passage omitted] There appears to be tumult in the SHAS movement, which may well cause the party to quit the government. [end recording]

The chairman of the coalition executive, Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan of Labor, says Education Minister Aloni has aroused the anger of the SHAS party, and this might cause a coalition crisis. Dayan advised her to avoid theological disputes as long as she holds ministerial office. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 24 September states in a related report that "referring to Minister Aloni's statement that under international law, the Golan is Syrian, MK Avraham Poraz of the Shinuy faction of Meretz told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich that while Israel can expect to have to make actual territorial concessions, the notion that the entire Golan is Syrian impairs Israel's position in the negotiations, and, in addition, is untrue. The Golan was taken in a defensive war, in which Syria was the attacker, said MK Poraz."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 24 September adds: "Prior to the publication of the education minister's remarks in Herzliyya, Agudat Yisra'el [a component of the United Torah Jewry party] announced its intention to submit a motion of no confidence in the government in the wake of her remarks of 23 September. MK Menahem Porush told our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld that Minister Aloni's statements are unprecedented, and even antireligious persons have never dared utter such remarks."]

Rabin, Meretz Discuss Aloni

TA2509100592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning summoned the Meretz ministers for a meeting on Sunday [27 September] to discuss the continuation of Minister Shulamit Aloni's term in the cabinet. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the meeting will not deal with firing the education and culture minister.

The prime minister decided to summon the Meretz ministers in view of the remarks Minister Aloni made on issues of religion and following this morning press reports, according to which she said that Rabin would agree to return all of the Golan Heights for full peace. Referring to this remark, Prime Minister Rabin termed it baseless nonsense.

Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni refused to comment on the report according to which Rabin summoned the Meretz ministers for a meeting on Sunday. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that there is considerable tension at the Education Ministry. Senior officials said that over the past three months, they have been embarrassed every time the minister made the headlines on this or other issues.

The National Religious Party [NRP] congratulates Prime Minister Rabin for his intention to remove Education Minister Aloni from her post. Knesset Member Yig'al Bibi, NRP Knesset faction chairman, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that being education minister, Aloni is the major obstacle preventing the expansion of the coalition. Bibi said that if Rabin indeed acts on his intention, the NRP will convene to reconsider its position in view of the newly created situation.

[Writing on page 3 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 25 September, Orli Katz-Azulay adds: "Yesterday Rabin took action to prevent a coalition crisis with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. Last night, Shulamit Aloni sent a letter to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef explaining that she respects the values represented by Judaism and that she had not intended to offend the ultra-Orthodox community. It is believed in Labor that the letter, as well as Aloni's promise to tone down her public statements, will end the crisis."]

Rabinovich Comments on Syria's 'Total Peace'

TA2509114992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The Israeli delegations to the peace talks returned home this morning from Washington. The head of the team negotiating with Syria, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, said progress has been made, for example, mutual recognition of the other side's security needs.

Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Prof. Rabinovich for his evaluation of the term total peace with Israel, which was voiced this week by the Syrian foreign minister.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] I draw your attention to the fact that he did use a very attractive term—total peace—but he linked it to total withdrawal, and actually not just a total withdrawal from the Syrian territory, but from all Arab land. This is a tall order. We would consider reconsidering our position when we fully understand what the Syrians mean by this linkage of their territorial issue to larger Arab issues. [end recording]

The head of the team negotiating with Jordan and the Palestinians, Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, said it is not true that the talks with the Palestinians are bogged down, as some of the media have reported. However, he admitted

that there is still a very wide gap between Israel and the Palestinians over the nature of the autonomy. [passage omitted]

UN Granted Participant Status in Talks

TA2409200592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Israel has agreed to include the UN as a participant in the multilateral peace talks. This emerged in the meeting held in New York last night between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's also featured in the meeting, and Dr. Butrus-Ghali promised to handle the issue personally. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports:

[Begin recording] [Stern] The meeting with Dr. Butrus-Ghali took place at the UN Center. The big news is that Israel agreed that the UN be given participant status in the multilateral talks. To date the UN had only been assigned observer status. Sources in the foreign minister's entourage said that the change in the UN status had been approved by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The question of the POW's and MIA's and the fate of Ron Arad also featured in the meeting. The foreign minister spoke to the press at the end of the meeting.

[Peres] On the issue of Ron Arad and the MIA's, which was the first topic on the agenda, Mr. Butrus-Ghali told me that he decided to handle the issue personally and not to delegate it to anybody else, and I believe that this will be the case.

As for its participation in the multilateral negotiations, the UN will enjoy the same status as all other participants. We will not discriminate against it, there is no need to do that.

As for Israel's integration into a regional group, the secretary general promised to help us to become part of the European group—the so-called West European and Others group—and to find ways not to discriminate against Israel until that happens.

The fourth topic was the extraneous and bizarre resolutions that the UN reaffirms year in and year out. The secretary general promised to help us strike those irrelevant, outdated, and unnecessary resolutions off the agenda. [end recording]

Sharon Says Rabin Intervening in U.S. Election

TA2509080692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon has said that it is not too late yet to stop Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's wild race toward what he mistakenly considers peace. Touring Tiberias yesterday, MK Sharon told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the prime minister's policy is trying to put us all to sleep. Rabin explains on a daily basis that nothing has happened yet, but after he signs agreements with the Arabs, it will be too late.

MK Sharon also charges that the prime minister is rudely intervening in the U.S. presidential elections and helping George Bush get reelected to the White House.

Need Seen for 'Camp David Format' in Peace Talks

TA2409202092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep

[Text] Israel is generally satisfied with the long round of talks which has just ended in Washington. There is, however, a growing feeling that for a historic breakthrough to take place a dramatic move will be needed within a short time based on the Camp David format—where the decisions are made at the highest echelons—in order to prevent foot-dragging and an increasing inability to hold a dialogue. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik sums up in our Tel Aviv studio:

The following is the outcome of the talks as summed up in reports reaching the prime minister and the foreign minister. There is real progress with the Syrians. For the first time, there is public discussion about the principles of a compromise: peace in exchange for territories. With the Lebanese, the ice has broken in the talks and a businesslike dialogue has started. With the Jordanians, there are positive although slow negotiations, which are not fully reported in the media. The Palestinians are a disappointment, although even in those talks there are signs of progress.

Jerusalem is therefore satisfied even if the sides are still feeling their way slowly and are not showing all their cards. The important thing, according to the Israeli leadership, is that all the sides are interested in continuing the talks, and that they believe the talks pay off. There are real negotiations.

From Israel's viewpoint, Prime Minister Rabin will now be more careful. He put out feelers and is now awaiting the responses. For example, Israel is waiting for the Syrians to paint a detailed peace picture, and only then will talks be held on returning territory. Israel expects the Palestinians to work something out amongst themselves and with the PLO, and to climb down from the tree which is too tall even for Israel's new government. Behind the scenes, the main mediators are the Americans, and regretfully, their main attention is now devoted to internal matters. The Egyptians are working hard at secret efforts to bridge the gaps, but so far without any results.

In general, everything taking place is happening in the talks. The efforts towards a secret dialogue will probably grow in the recess until the talks resume on 21 October. Senior officials here believe that a breakthrough will once again be found only in a dramatic move at the highest level and far from the eyes of the media.

'No Chance' Seen of Peace on Syrian Terms

TA2509122292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 92 p B1

[Editorial: "One Step Forward and One Step Back"]

[Text] The sixth round of the bilateral talks has just ended. If any progress was made, it was very minor. Mainly, no agreement was reached on a "joint document" setting the agenda for the next rounds of talks between Israel and Syria. Nevertheless, we should give some thought to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's remarks upon arriving at the UN General Assembly in New York. He stated that Syria is prepared for total peace in exchange for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The Israeli delegates were pleased with this declaration. Their positive attitude probably stems from their interpretation of the word "total" in the context of the peace that Syria, in principle, is prepared to make with Israel. Linguists would more accurately interpret it as "full," "complete," or "absolute." In any event, the delegates thought the words used by the Syrian foreign minister, which were probably not chosen at random, indicated Syria's willingness to sign a peace agreement that is more than an agreement on ending the state of war and which may meet our prime minister's demand that peace should bring about a normalization of relations in all spheres between Israel and Syria.

If that interpretation is correct, there is room for the satisfaction of our delegates. Nevertheless, there is a fly in the ointment. Syria's willingness to make "absolute" peace (if we accept this interpretation) hinges on Israel's willingness to carry out an "absolute" withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. In other words, not just from the Golan Heights, but also from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. This leads us to the conclusion that al-Shar' rejects Rabin's condition that peace with Syria should not hinge on the attainment of arrangements with the Palestinians, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Anwar al-Sadat did not suffice with the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, and insisted on doing something for the Palestinians in the territories. The detailed instructions about autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are an inseparable part of the Camp David accords, were meant to satisfy the Egyptian ruler. We could understand it if al-Shar' made peace with Syria conditional on an agreement with the Palestinians about the nature of the autonomy. However, he did not mention this issue at all, but just demanded a full Israeli withdrawal "from the occupied Arab territories." That is to say, he wants Israel to withdraw to the boundaries set down in the 1949 cease-fire agreements, which remained in effect until the Six-Day War.

If the Syrian foreign minister thinks a majority can be found in the Knesset elected on 23 June in favor of resuscitating those boundaries he is wrong. Rabin can expect parliamentary support for some kind of territorial arrangements on the Golan Heights and perhaps even for recognition of Syria's sovereignty over it if the Syrian Army remains outside the Golan and the Jewish settlements are allowed to stay. But, if Syria wants Israel to return to the situation that existed prior to 5 June 1967 and this is the price it demands for peace with it—however "total" it may be—it has no chance of persuading the Knesset to pay it. The very fact that such a demand has been raised plays into the hands of the opposition and enfeebles the government's position.

We can only hope that Faruq al-Shar's declaration was merely an opening position and that the Syrian delegation will be more flexible when the seventh round of talks begins in Washington on 21 October.

Iran Reportedly Has No Information on Arad

TA2509103192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Sep 92 p 1

[Report from New York by Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Text] Iran has no information about the fate of Ron Arad. This was disclosed yesterday by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT at the UN center in New York.

Israel has long believed that the Iranians hold the key to information on the fate of Ron Arad, and that in fact, they either hold him themselves or control the Shiite groups that are holding him. Last night, however, the Iranian foreign minister said unequivocally: "Iran has no information about the Israeli navigator."

When asked whether Iran knows if the navigator is alive, Velayati answered in no uncertain terms: "Iran has no information on this issue."

In reply to our correspondent's question concerning the announcement of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks two days ago that as far as it knows, Ron Arad is alive, Velayati replied: "I have not heard about this, and we do not know."

UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali yesterday told Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that he was personally assuming the task of looking for new information regarding the fate of Ron Arad.

Hungarian President Goncz Meets Prime Minister

AU2309110892 Budapest MTI in English 1755 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Budapest, 21 Sep (MTI)—During their talks on Monday, Hungarian President Arpad Goncz and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin praised the development of bilateral political, economic, and cultural links in recent years.

They thought business cooperation would receive further impetus from the mutual removal of discriminatory customs tariffs.

Goncz said Hungarian people who had settled in Israel could act as a bridge between the two countries, Presidential Spokesman Andras Farago told MTI after the talks.

Goncz arrived in Israel for an official visit on Sunday.

Rabin detailed the problems faced by his government and the Israeli peace efforts. The Middle East talks are currently aimed at exploring chances of peace, Rabin said.

Israel is encouraged by Hungary's economic and political changes, and its activity in the Security Council. Rabin said that the visit of the Hungarian president would serve to promote better understanding and the expansion of bilateral ties.

Speaking about anti-Semitism and racism at a lunch hosted by Rabin, Goncz said there was no political force in Hungary for such occurrences to gain ground.

"The two countries' relations are strong enough for such phenomena not to give rise to suspicion," Goncz said.

In his toast, Rabin cited Israeli reservations about anti-Semitic occurrences in Hungary, but was confident that a democratic Hungary would continue to do all it could—by legal, administrative, and cultural means—to fend them off.

During an impromptu press conference after lunch, Rabin explained Israel was very sensitive to anti-Semitic events anywhere and thought the historic lesson should always be borne in mind.

Rabin said he could not size up the real extent of the danger of anti-Semitism in Hungary, nor did he consider this to be his task, but he was sure that the Hungarian Government had a good approach to the matter.

On Monday, Goncz paid a visit to the Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, and paid his tribute at the memorial plaques of Hungarian-born life savers in the grove of the righteous and the trees planted in their honour.

In the hall of martyrs, the president symbolically lit the flame of remembrance and laid a wreath on the martyrs' memorial.

After that, Goncz—at his own request contrary to the original programme—called at the memorial plaque of Jozsef Antall senior at the wall of the world's righteous, which was unveiled by his son, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, last year. The gesture was meant to express his appreciation for Jozsef Antall senior as a politician.

After planting a tree in the grove of peace, Goncz went for a walk in the occupied part of Jerusalem.

He became familiar with sites of the three principal religions coexisting in Israel, the Church of the Holy Selpulchre, the Arab bazaar, and the Wailing Wall.

During a visit to the Knesset, House President Shevach Weiss put Goncz in the picture about Israeli legislative work.

Holds Press Conference

LD2409184492 Budapest MTI in English 1816 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Tel Aviv, September 23 (MTI)—"The aim of my visit was to intensify relations between Hungary and Israel, and to strengthen the sympathy that exists between the two countries," Hungarian President Arpad Goncz said in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, at a press conference held at the end of his four-day official visit to Israel.

Summing up the experiences of the visit, President Goncz confirmed that relations between the two countries have progressed beyond the stage where they would require state assistance, as the two countries are linked by numerous family and personal bonds.

Economic cooperation has also moved beyond the formal stage, and has become informal, the president added.

"A free trade agreement between Israel and Hungary is only possible in the long-term," the president said, in answer to a question.

"Israel maintains free trade relations with the European Community, EFTA [European Free Trade Association] and the United States. Hungary has concluded an associate contract with the EC.

"At present, customs regulations make it difficult to boost bilateral economic relations. The first step should thus be to eliminate these customs disadvantages. This would naturally imply changing the composition of exports and imports, as it is more favourable for Israel to import raw materials from Hungary, than semi-finished products which would be far more advantageous to the Hungarian side," he said.

The Israeli journalists were mainly interested in whether or not Hungary plans some sort of military action in defence of the ethnic Hungarians living in Vojvodina. President Goncz said Hungary considers the deployment of military force to be inconceivable in this matter, as Hungary has approved the Helsinki basic principles.

"The aim of Hungarian foreign policy is for Hungarians living beyond the country's borders to be able to live as equal citizens in their own places of residence. The frameworks of this should be created with a verifiable international system of agreements," the president said.

Crowd of 'Over a Million' Welcomes King Home

JN2509085792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 92 pp 1, 5

[By Suhayr 'Ubaydat and P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Over a million Jordanians thronged the streets of Amman Thursday to extend a jubilant, boisterous and emotional welcome to His Majesty King Husayn in a euphoric celebration unprecedented in the Kingdom's recent history.

Men and women danced on the streets to the tune of nationalist lyrics while elderly tribesmen watched from makeshift tents set up on the roadsides as a sea of the black, white and red national colour descended on the streets leading from Marka airport on a motorcade route winding through downtown, Jabal 'Amman, the Sports City and Jabal al-Husayn to the Royal Palace.

Royal family members, government and Parliament leaders, tribal chiefs, Armed Forces officers and diplomatic corps gathered in a decorated hangar at the airport to greet the king, who piloted his Tri-Star to a smooth touchdown at exactly 3 p.m. with Her Majesty Queen Nur sitting behind him in the cockpit.

Some of the 16 jetfighters which flew escort to the royal plane as soon as it entered Jordanian airspace went into a series of aerobatics and painted the Jordanian flag in the sky as the king, looking fit and healthy, stepped down from the plane.

As mosque minarets lit up and church bells rang out in unison, the king embraced members of the Royal family, some of whom wept openly.

Some of the king's 11 children were with him as he flew in; others, along with His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Royal Highness Princess Basmah and their families, were at the airport to receive him.

As cannons boomed a 21-gun salute, the king inspected a guard of honour to the music of the Armed Forces band, and then proceeded to the reception hangar, where he shook hands with about 400 dignitaries, including present and former ministers, Parliament members, senior Armed Forces and police officers and diplomats, who greeted him with a standing ovation.

The applause that resounded through the hangar faded into the background as people gathered outside the airport cheered, clapped and sang in anticipation of the king's appearance on the streets.

The high point of the national celebrations marking the king's return was a three-and-a half hour drive through the streets of Amman in a silver Mercedes car with Crown Prince Hasan at its wheel and showered with flowers on many spots.

The royal car, accompanied by bright-red army escort vehicles while three helicopters hovered overhead, was met with an outpour of emotions—ululation, songs and cheers—every step of the way.

At one point, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd bin-Zayd abandoned his car and joined the men and women dancing to the tune of the popular "Hashemi Hashemi" song, referring to the king's ancestory, which goes back to the Prophet Muhammad.

The king stopped briefly at Zahran Palace to greet her Majesty the Queen Mother Zayn.

Security men kept a tight cordon along the streets, but were unable to hold back the crowds surging forward for a close look at the monarch, who, halfway through the drive, climbed onto the bonnet of the car. Dozens of security men surrounded him, but were waved aside by the king. Many had to be content with running alongside the car in a tight knot.

At several spots, crowds surged forward to shake the hand of the king, creating nightmares for the security men.

Many senior officials who normally are driven opted to drive themselves; among them was the chief of police himself, Major General Fadil 'Ali Fuhayd.

For the first time that anyone could remember in Jordan, security forces stood by as many fired their guns in the air after a night of celebrations with honking, music and dancing in the streets.

Also for the first time, many members of the Lower House of Parliament got the taste of public transport when they were driven to and from the airport in a distinctive red and white government bus.

Traffic policemen, themselves celebrating the occasion, tried to restore order but overlooked the hundreds of trucks, buses, pickups and cars crammed with people which otherwise would have drawn heavy fines for overloading.

Many of the vehicles flew the flags and were plastered with posters of the king and fitted with loudspeakers which blared national songs. The vehicles spent the night cruising around town, jamming petrol stations and sandwich stands.

Tents were pitched in every vacant space on the side of the streets through which the royal motorcade passed, and all of them offered free coffee and sweets.

Hundreds of camels and sheep were slaughtered in thanksgiving sacrifice. In many cases tribal leaders appeared to be vying with each other to score the highest number of sacrifices.

Banners welcoming the king and thanking God for his successful surgery decorated every available telephone and electricity pole and tree while huge portraits of the king were draped on buildings, including ministries and government departments, as well as hotels.

Dozens of buses carried people crowding and precariously perched on their roofs and the signs they carried indicated that they had come from outlying regions from the north as well as south on the perilous journey. Only a few minor accidents were reported; two people were hit by cars and a security officer was hit by a stray "celebration" bullet.

Officials estimated that over one million people—about one third of Jordan's population—had turned out on Amman's streets to greet the king.

The entire proceeding was broadcast live on Jordan Television and Radio, which also beamed newly written songs by Jordanians praising the king and thanking God for His Majesty's recovery from illness.

More Charges Leveled Against Deputy Shubaylat

JN2409105092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 92 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporters]

[Text] Amman—Contrary to earlier reports, which said detained deputy Layth Shubaylat faced only one charge of transporting and possessing weapons, the chargesheet that was published yesterday reveals a range of charges from conspiracy to overthrow the regime to plotting to undermine Iraqi-Jordanian relations to slandering fellow members of Parliament and His Majesty the King.

The sheet, which was handed over to Mr Shubaylat's lawyers and those of his associate deputy Ya'qub Qirrish, lists Mr Shubaylat as the first defendant, followed by Mr. Qirrish and two others, Ahmad al-Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Isma'il Idkayk. The two latter defendants are described as owners of a shop named "The World of Mirrors and Frames" in Jabal al-Husayn.

The chargesheet and an accompanying investigations dossier were handed over to the lawyers of the two deputies Tuesday to help them prepare their case during the week before the first trial session next Tuesday.

According to information obtained by the media until the fuller charges were announced Mr. Shubaylat was to face only a charge of allowing—knowingly or unknowingly—his vehicle to be used for tranporting arms and ammunition as well as explosives.

But the chargesheet made public late Tuesday gives seven distinct charges, starting with "affiliation with an illegal organisation—al-Nafir Islamic Youth—which aims at changing the Kingdom's Consitution and overthrowing the regime by means of revolution and sabotage and assuming leading positions in the state."

Other counts include: "Encouraging others through writings and speeches to terminate the country's constitution, undertaking actions designed to undermine Jordan's relations with Iraq, possessing unlicensed automatic weapons and explosives intended for illegal activities, slandering members of parliament and making statements considered slanderous to His Majesty King Husayn."

According to the chargesheet, the idea of setting up al-Nafir was born at a meeting in Tehran in 1990 attended by representatives of Islamic political parties and organisations, including Hizballah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

"Within that meeting, it was decided to set up religious groupings in all countries surrounding Israel, including Jordan, with the aim of establishing a caliphate-system of governments in these countries in line with the Iranian revolution's objectives," according to an unofficial translation of the chargesheet.

The document singles out Mr. Shubaylat as the one who was assigned to lead the group in Jordan.

It explicitly states that Shaykh Qirrish set up a committee whose members, were paid an average of JD 160 per month and an amount between JD 1,500 and JD 2,000 for the group's activities. The third and fourth defendants—Mr. al-Ayyubi and Mr. Idkayk—as well as another person named as Mahmud Tayyim were members of the committee, it says.

The committee used to meet at Shaykh Qirrish's residence in Jabal al-Husayn as well as at the home of Mr. Idkayk. The deputy used to wear a headdress to mask his appearance lest he be recognised while attending the meetings outside his house, according to the chargesheet.

The document says that Mr. Shubaylat and Shaykh Qirrish "procured arms and ammunition... and explosives (TNT)... with finance provided by external sources known for their enmity towards Jordan."

It accuses the two of maintaining constant contacts with Iraqi opposition figures, including former Petra Bank Chairman Ahmad Jalabi and others, and informing them on Jordanian Parliament affairs and receiving instructions from them on how to approach issues tackled by the legislative authority. It says the accused used to send their speeches in Parliament to external parties claiming that the speeches were not carried by the Jordanian media.

The two deputies, according to the details in the chargesheet, provided Mr. Jalabi during the Gulf crisis

with information about Jordan's "violations" of sanctions against Iraq as well as information on the al-'Amiriyah shelter in which over 300 people were killed after it was bombed by the allied forces.

The chargesheet also quotes Mr. Shubaylat as making derogatory remarks about his colleagues in the Lower House but does not detail how it got the quote. The document, however, does point out that while searching Mr. Shubaylat's office, an album of pictures "which also carried writings and words in the handwriting of the first defendant in a manner which will touch the pride of His Majesty King Husayn."

Saudi Amir Says Relations To Improve

JN2409195492 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The Amir of Riyadh, Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, visited Jordan's pavilion at the Seville Universal Expo '92.

He expressed his best wishes to the king on his recovery and on his safe return home. He underscored the brotherly ties between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and said he was confident the two countries' relations will be in a better shape in the near future.

Mechanized Syrian Forces Withdraw From Area

NC2509054592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0533 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Mechanized Syrian forces consisting of T-54 and (?T-55) tanks withdrew from Qnat, Hadath al-Jubbah, and Hasrun last night. Unit Commander Major Ma'mun said he has been ordered by his command to withdraw from the area and to deploy in al-Qulay'at area in 'Akkar.

16 Tanks Said Withdrawn

NC2509071992 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0704 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] The newspaper AL-NAHAR's correspondent in Bsharri reported that the Lebanese Army last night closed the Bsharri road in the direction of 'Abdin, Hadath al-Jubbah, and Hasrun, because 16 Syrian T-54 and T-55 tanks were withdrawing from Qnat, Hadath al-Jubbah, and Hasrun.

The correspondent cited a Syrian officer saying his command had ordered him to effect a complete withdrawal from the area. The Syrian officer added that a Syrian special-troop force deployed in the area will withdraw later and deploy in al-Qulay'at in 'Akkar.

Samahah on Resistance in South, Syrian Presence

NC2409111892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah stated that the government is trying to convince the opposition to take part in the next government.

In a statement published by the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM today, Samahah said that the armed Lebanese resistance will remain in the south as long as Israel occupies Lebanon. He stressed the need for and the importance of distinguishing between the legitimate presence of the fraternal Syrian forces and the Israeli occupation forces. Samahah pointed out that al-Ta'if Accord regulates Syrian presence. It allows for the national accord government to meet the Syrian Government to discuss redeploying the Syrian forces east of Lebanon.

Answering a question, Samahah said that the popular trend represented by former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn is the political force in Lebanon with which the government can cooperate.

Opposition To Oppose Kasrawan Elections

NC2509061692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Opposition parties and forces issued a statement at the end of their meeting yesterday, in which they stressed their determination to confront the suspicious scheme represented by the holding of elections in Kasrawan.

They voiced deep concern for the fate of freedom in Lebanon after seeing the serious flaw in the democratic system. They expressed their sympathy with the families of kidnapped people and their support for the release of Phalangist Party member Butrus Khawand and Lawyer Nasri Sadir and his companions.

Phalangist March Organized To Protest Abduction

NC2409175492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The Phalangist Party today organized a demonstration to protest the kidnapping of party member Butrus Khawand. Representatives from the Lawyers Association and other political, social, and humanitarian organizations, as well as ordinary citizens took part in the demonstration. The demonstration started out at al-Ashrafiyah Square, proceeded down Adib Ishaq Street and past the Hotel Alexander, and ended at the Justice Ministry, where Phalangist Party leaders met Justice Minister Nasri al-Ma'luf and handed him a memorandum. The memorandum says that the unresolved abduction of Khawand is a reminder of the climate of war. The abduction, which was carried out in disregard of the peace march, violated the spirit of the [al-Ta'if] National Reconciliation Accord, the statement adds.

Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah addressed the crowds, saying:

[Begin Sa'adah recording] They wanted to turn Sinn al-Fil [East Beirut area where abduction occurred] into a crime scene, so we came to the Justice Ministry, the source of justice, to call for justice. [cheers, applause] Butrus Khawand has become a symbol of freedom. We denounce abduction in principle, and not only because a dear colleague has become a victim. We are against abduction in general.

I will not speak for long. I have to thank you for the discipline and restraint which characterized the demonstration. I also wish to thank the security forces which walked alongside the march and lived up to their reputation for civility.

As for the media, we will always remember them. The battle is about freedom and the first soldiers to defend freedom are the press and other media. [end recording]

Afghanistan

Najibollah Said Moved to Mazar-e Sharif

LD2409124792 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Najib, president of the previous regime in Kabul, was moved to Mazar-e Sharif.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent, quoting a reliable military source in Mazar-e Sharif city, reports that Najib, head of the past communist regime in Kabul, was moved to Mazar-e Sharif where he lives under the intimidation and torture of leaders of the unholy northern coalition.

According to fresh reports from Mazar-e Sharif, strong differences between the leaders of the northern coalition have come to light concerning Najib's future. It has been said that Dostam is supporting Najib. Karmal and a number of other leaders of the Communist Party are demanding his punishment and even his execution.

The report adds that disagreements over the future of Najib, who has been moved from the UN offices in Kabul to Mazar-e Sharif, are due to differences between the aforementioned groups.

Former Vice President Rafi 'Captured' at Airport

LD2409122992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] General Mohammad Rafi, deputy head of the Executive Council of the Watan Communist Party [Homeland Party] and vice president of the past communist regime, was captured by militia of General Rashid Dostam at Kabul airport while leaving the country.

Quoting a reliable source at Kabul airport, our correspondent reports that Gen. Mohammad Rafi, who [passage indistinct] had taken refuge with one commander in Paghman district, was helped by Shura-e Nezar [Supervisory Council], due to his past services, to flee to Delhi via Kabul International Airport. But he was arrested along with two of his companions by militia of Gen. Dostam.

The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent adds that the supporters of the Kabul coalition government previously claimed that Gen. Rafi had taken refuge with Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan. His capture now at Kabul airport exposes all the lies of the coalitionists. Kabul citizens remark that if Gen Rafi was with Hezb-e Eslami-e, why was it then necessary for him to be sent abroad via Kabul airport, to India, a sincere friend of the Kabul coalition government. It is worth mentioning that a large number of high-ranking members of the Homeland Party have been sent abroad under forged identities.

Mass Grave of 2,000 Bodies Found in Herat Province

LD2309195492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] A mass grave of 2,000 bodies of unknown martyrs—buried by bulldozers against Islam's sacred principles with their eyes covered and blood-stained clothes—of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan was discovered the day before yesterday at Dara-ye Sup, close to military Division 17 of Herat Province.

The site was visited by esteemed Lieutenant General Mohammad Esmail, general head of the southwest zone of the Islamic Society Party [Hezb-e Jami'at-e Eslami] of Afghanistan, the commander of the military corps, and governor of Herat Province; Mr. Halim [word indistinct], consul of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Herat; and UN representatives. The UN representatives, expressing profound sorrow at this great tragedy, promised that they will expose the crimes of the past regime's actions to the outside world.

Then a meeting was held at the site of these martyrs' graves. Lieutenant General Esmail, general head of the southwest zone, read a message from Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, on the occasion of this painful event. Then, in a speech he presented condolences to the Muslim nation of Afghanistan due to the martyrdom of these Muslims and asked those present at the meeting to condemn the savage actions of these criminals by shouting God is Great in their regions, thus putting fear in the hearts of imperialists.

Also, the first day of Mizan, 1371 [23 September] has been declared a day of general mourning in that province. During the meeting—which was attended by tens of thousands of the faithful residents of that province and a number of friends of the unknown martyrs—prayers were read for the pure souls of martyrs of the path of the revolution.

Hekmatyar: Jihad To Continue Until Communists Gone

LD2509072592 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Brother Hekmatyar said that even if there is an inch of Afghanistan's soil under communist rule, he will not cease jihad.

A reliable source of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan told Radio Message of Freedom that a jihadi leader recently sent a message to the amir of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, brother Hekmatyar, saying that the war should not be resumed and that grounds should be prepared for peace.

The source added that brother Hekmatyar has assured the aforementioned leader that whenever the conditions proposed by Hezb-e Eslami-e are accepted—when the

savage militia leaves Kabul and communists are thrown out of the government completely—they will never resort to war. But if even one inch of the soil of Afghanistan is under the rule of the communists, he will not cease jihad.

Bangladesh

Indian 'Push Back' Causes Panic in Border Areas

BK2409135892 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] Noapara, 21 Sep—Panic and tension among the inhabitants of border districts like Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jessore and Satkhira have been prevailing over the frequent BSF [Indian Border Security Force] Operation Push Back activities during the last one week in the name of so-called illegal immigrants.

It seems that India has intended to create another Rohingya-like refugee problem in the south western region in Bangladesh.

According to reports received here, thousands of Bengalees have been gathered from different parts of West Bengal in Bongaon Petrapole areas under BSF Push Back Operation programme and they would push back at least ten lakh Bengalees to create disastrous refugee problem.

While this correspondent made a tour to Benapole and Satkhira border areas on Sunday [20 September] found BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] personnel on alert against BSF's Operation Push Back conspiracy.

UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH] adds from Latmonirhat: Tension in the bordering area of Thengjhara of the district, triggered last week by an assault by Indian BSF on a Bangladeshi fisherman, was defused today (Monday) after a flag meeting between the border security forces of the two countries.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area following the assault of the Bangladeshi fisherman by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) inside the Bangladesh territory on September 15.

At the flag meeting, the Bangladesh side was led by Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Manzoor Ahmed while the Indian side was led by Brig. S.F. Kutial of BSF.

The Indian side gave the assurance that action will be taken against those involved in the incident.

The two sides also agreed to take measures against recurrence of such incident.

Rahman Meets Iranian, Bahraini Counterparts

BK2309131692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, now in New York, has had a busy day meeting leaders of various countries and the UN officials. He met Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah Tuesday. During the meeting, they discussed issues related to peace and security in the region and the follow-up matters of mutual interest, which were discussed during prime minister's visit to Bahrain last month.

Mr. Mustafizur Rahman also had a discussion with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and discussed bilateral, economic cooperation and issues related to regional and international peace which are on the UN agenda. He also briefed him on the latest developments relating to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh foreign minister also had meetings with the under secretary general and senior officials of the United Nations.

Energy Minister Meets Chinese Delegation

BK2309164792 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The government is actively considering setting up another 210-megawatt power plant at Rauzan in Chittagong. This was stated by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain when the seven-member Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister for Machinery and Electronic Industries Lu Yansun called on him in Dhaka today. During the meeting, the two sides held preliminary talks on setting up the second power plant at Rauzan. A 210-megawatt power station is now being constructed with Chinese assistance of 525 crore taka at Rauzan. It is expected to go into operation by April next year. The Chinese vice minister gave the assurance of all possible help and cooperation to boost power generation in Bangladesh.

India

Commitment To Curb Chemical Weapons Reaffirmed

BK2209160892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] India has reiterated its unequivocal commitment to curbing proliferation of chemical weapons as reflected in the export control regime. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that New Delhi will continue to exercise effective control on export of such chemicals. He expressed confidence that the coming into effect of the chemical weapons convention will be a positive step forward for the only universal and nondiscriminatory agreement which provides for effective means to tackle the problem of proliferation.

Statement on Unauthorized Sale

BK2309152092 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Sep 92

["Official spokesman's briefing on 22 September 1992 on news report in NEW YORK TIMES entitled 'U.S. accuses India on chemical arms' dated 22nd September, 92"—ISI headline]

[Text] We have seen news report which appeared in 'THE NEW YORK TIMES' on 21 September 1992 entitled "U.S. accuses India on chemical weapons" and other reports in U.S. and Indian press on subject. India's commitment to curbing proliferation of chemical weapons is unequivocal and is reflected in our export control regime. While India will continue to exercise effective control on such exports, we are confident that coming into effect of chemical weapons convention will be a positive step forward, only a universal and non-discriminatory agreement can provide most effective means to tackle problem of proliferation. U.S. and India have also held bilateral discussions apart from multilateral discussions. Specific cases that have been brought by U.S. to our attention have been examined and investigated by us. Specific case of M/s United Phosphorus Ltd., exporting TMP [trimethyl phosphite], a dual purpose chemical, in violation of our regulations to Syria, is being looked into. TMP is included in list of chemicals whose export requires prior clearance by government of India. In this case, government of India's clearance was not obtained. This violation of government of India's import and export regulations has been brought to notice of customs authority for instituting necessary action.

Company Official Comments

BK2209163892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 22 (AFP)—The Indian Government is taking action against a Bombay-based company for exporting to Syria a dual-purpose chemical that can be used to make nerve gas, it was announced Tuesday.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said United Phosphorus Ltd. did not get permission from the government to sell trimethyl phosphite (TMP) early this year.

"This violation of the Government of India's import and export regulation has been brought to the attention of the customs authorities for instituting necessary action," the spokesman told reporters here. He did not elaborate.

He said India's commitment to curbing proliferation of chemical weapons was "unequivocal," adding that TMP was among four chemicals that cannot be exported without official authorisation.

The TIMES OF INDIA newspaper quoted Raju D. Shroff, chairman and managing director of United Phosphorus Ltd., as saying that Syria had contacted the firm in 1991 for 45 tonnes of TMP, allegedly to make pesticides.

Shroff told the daily that after exporting one lot, he had decided not to sell any more TMP to Damascus following requests by the U.S. consul in Bombay.

"The Americans suspected that supplies of TMP could be diverted by Syria to Libya and Iran for making nerve gas," the TIMES said.

The second shipment was stopped in mid-ocean by German officials, and the newspaper said it was expected to end up in Taiwan with the permission of the U.S. Government.

Envoy at UN Rejects Pakistani Demand on Kashmir

BK2309080692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] India has asked Pakistan to stop training and arming terrorists and secessionist elements in Kashmir and interfering in the internal affairs of India in the interest of good-neighborly relations. Addressing the 47th annual UN General Assembly debate, the Indian representative, Mr. Sudhir Vyas, said that the only dispute that remains in Kashmir is the vacation of Pakistani aggression.

Referring to the Pakistani demand of self-determination for the people in Kashmir, Mr. Vyas said that self-determination cannot be applied to integral parts of the country. Charging Pakistan with indulging in misleading propaganda, the Indian representative said that Jammu and Kashmir is and will remain an integral part of India.

Mr. Vyas said that terrorist actions sponsored by Pakistan have ruined the economy of the valley and has forced thousands of innocent persons to migrate to other parts of the country. The representative accused Islamabad of violating the Simla Agreement while expressing a desire to commence bilateral dialogue in accordance with it.

Minister of State Makes Contacts at UN

Meets Israeli, German Ministers

BK2409032692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, who is now in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session, had a meeting with his Israeli counterpart, Mr. Shim'on Peres, yesterday. The two ministers discussed bilateral and international issues for about 45 minutes.

Mr. Faliero also met the German foreign minister.

Mr. Faleiro is scheduled to address the UN Genereal Assembly tomorrow.

Discusses Cooperation With Peres

BK2409090892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] India has expressed the hope that the West Asia peace process will lead to fair and permanent settlement of the problems facing the region. The Indian viewpoint was explained by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, to his Israeli counterpart, Mr. Shim'on Peres, during a 45-minute meeting in New York yesterday. Mr. Peres welcomed India's participation in the West Asia peace process and gave Mr. Faleiro a briefing of the progress made at the peace talks. The two sides discussed detailed agenda for cooperation between the two countries in agriculture, technology, water management, and other economic areas. Both sides hoped for broader cooperation not only in economic and technical areas, but also in the field of culture.

Consults With Russia's Kozyrev

BK2409081092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The Russian foreign minister, Mr. Andrey Kozyrev, has suggested that the occasion of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India early next year should be used for signing a comprehsnive treaty of cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Kozyrev suggested this during his talks with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faliero, in New York yesterday. It was also suggested that an annual meeting at the foreign ministers level should be held to discuss bilateral and multilateral issues.

Russia To Assist in Modernizing Defense Units

BK2409091492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that the government is modernizing the existing defense units. Talking to newsmen at Tiruchirappalli today, he said Russia has agreed to extend assistance in this connection. The minister also said that there is no proposal to start new defense units in the country.

Changes in Indo-Russian Defense Ties Viewed

BK2309092292 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Sep 92 p 9

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi—The biggest advantage of the proposed Indo-Russian military cooperation offered by Moscow, and largely confined to technical cooperation as disclosed by Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, is that it will elevate India's status from a client state to an equal partner.

The existing problems of defence spares and production support required for equipment indigenously manufactured under license, and for which import of critical assemblies is necessary, are essentially because Soviet Union always treated India as a client state. While Services have traditionally been kept on a tight leash as far as spares are concerned, Moscow, as a rule, ensured that its weapons employing state-of-the-art technology were never exported. Even in the '70s, when its T-64 tanks were considered as finely balanced for mobility, fire-power and protection. Moscow never gave them to any country.

USSR always manufactured two versions of its equipment, one for its own Services and the other for export to client countries, largely because of political and ideological reasons. For instance, the T-72 tank which is India's main battle tank has two versions.

Therefore, unlike the West where state-of-the-art technology has largely been available on competitive prices, Soviets, through their General Economic Department (GED) for transfer of technology and documentation and General Economic Trade (GET) for hardware transfer, under the overall control of Kremlin, kept a strict watch on exports.

The technologically diluted export versions being simple, rugged, easy to maintain and produced en masse suited India's requirements for an expanding army. It was also found compatible with the existing subcontinental realities with Pakistan as the traditional enemy. Further, it fitted well into Indian operational doctrine, which is basically defensive in nature, attuned towards attrition warfare of low tempo, except at select pressure points.

For these pressure points, select high-technology was sought from the West. This explains why the Army equipment is largely of Soviet origin, while the Air Force and Navy have evolved hybrid systems—Western hi-tech sub-systems mounted on Soviet platforms.

To assuage the Indian feeling of over-dependency on the USSR, Moscow, at best, offered licensed production of select equipment, which basically means assemblage of equipment. Under a command economy and totalitarian political dispensation, the Soviets built a vast production network scattered over the republics and satellite states, to both support their domestic armament requirements and to export to client States.

The present geo-political realities are different. A bankrupt Russia, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union with little inter-republic control and communication, finds little money in the defence spares or production support business. They are, instead, readily willing to sell hardware for hard currency.

Against this background, Russia as the successor State have, for the first time, offered military technological cooperation. And from the Indian point of view this makes sense, as future Indian equipment has to be in

tune with what the defence services already have. The troops have been trained both technically and doctrinally over the Soviet equipment, and even if the finances were available, the present equipment cannot be completely discarded.

Technologically the Russian equipment is of a high quality. A myth of the recent Gulf war is that the Soviet equipment with the Iraqi army was defeated by the US hi tech weaponry. In the first place Iraq did not possess Soviet hi-tech weapons. What was defeated were the Iraqi ground-based air defence systems by superior US electronic warfare means, and not the traditional Soviet armaments, which were even doctrinally ill-employed in static defenses.

Given the present Russian dispensation, where its hi-tech weaponry is on world display for the first time, India needs to explore the availability and suitability of hi-tech areas for technological joint-collaborations. This will lead to interdependency rather than the existing dependency on Russia. Much will, however, depend on how fast at the highest government level the obtained differences over prioritles, payment terms and credit rates between the two countries are resolved. On this alone depends the proposed military cooperation and the whole gamut and direction of Indo-Russian military ties.

Russian Firms To Supply Crude, Petroleum Products

BK2309111292 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 92 p 11

[Text] New Delhi—The stalemate over the supply of crude and petroleum products from Russia has been broken with Russian companies agreeing to supply one million tonne of crude to India in the coming months.

An IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] delegation returned early on Sunday morning, after negotiating the deal. The delegation included Mr B.D.Gupta, Director (Finance) and Mr Suresh Mathur General Manager (Internationai Trade).

Although the agreement is with Russian companies, the supply will be treated as part of the commitment under the Indo-Russian trade protocol for 1992. Russia had agreed to supply four million tonne of crude and one million tonne of petroleum products during the calender year on rupee payments.

India had almost given up hope of getting the remaining quantities and had begun making alternate arrangements. The shortfall was being met from spot purchases. The attraction in the Russian crude is that India gets it almost like a counter-trade. Russia has not been exporting enough to India to generate enough rupee to buy Indian goods.

Militants Among 11 People Killed in Punjab

BK2409144692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] In Punjab, nine militants and one head constable are among 11 persons killed in various encounters since last evening. According to an official spokesman, four militants were killed in an encounter with security forces at village Daurpur today in Amritsar district. One head constable was also killed in the encounter. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the encounter site. Elsewhere in the state, two militants were killed in Ferozepore district, one in Ludhiana, and two others in Amritsar district, while militants killed one person in Ludhiana district.

Land Mine Kills 10 Security Men in Warangal

BK2409160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, 10 security personnel have been killed and six injured in a land mine blast by the People's War Group of Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas]. Quoting the state home minister, Mr. M.V. (Mysoora) Reddy, a UNI report from Hyderabad says that the land mines were laid near Balakurthi village in Warangal district and the blast occurred when the van carrying the security personnel passed over it this afternoon.

Deportation of Bangladesh 'Infiltrators' Urged

BK2409092092 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] New Delhi—The Bangladeshi infiltration is an assault on the political and socio-economic life of the Capital.

Addressing a day-long dharna [sit-in protest], on Monday, organised by Delhi Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to highlight the political and socio-economic implications of infiltration of Bangladesh nationals into the country, senior party leaders urged the Centre to take effective measures to contain such infiltration and deport these foreign nationals out of the country.

Among those who addressed a large gathering of BJP workers were Sikander Bakht, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, O.P. Kohli, President, Delhi Pradesh BJP, Kedar Nath Sahani, Vijay Kumar Malhotra and BJP members of Parliament from New Dehli, Kalka Dass, Madan Lal Khurana, B.L. Sharma 'Prem' and Tara Chand Khandelwal.

Sikander Bakht said it was due to large scale infiltration of Bangladesh nationals that our economy was adversely affected and law and order situation had worsened in the country. He said that certain people are giving this problem a communal tinge but it was not a Hindu-Muslim problem but a question of national citizenship.

He wondered as to why we were begging before the Government to identify and deport the Bangladeshi infiltrators. Was it not our duty to create an atmosphere against the Government's apathy to this vast problem, he asked. He exhorted the BJP workers to take up the task of identifying Bangladeshi nationals and force the Government to delete their names from the voters list and have their ration cards cancelled.

The former Chief Executive Councillor Kedar Nath Sahni, while referring to the statement of the Minister of State for Home Affairs, M M Jacob, that over a lakh Bangladeshi nationals have sneaked into the Capital, accused the Government of letting this problem assuming so large dimensions. He said that with this lacklustre attitude of the Government, these infiltrators have gathered so much of courage that they now dare ask for citizenship, the land and the right to franchise.

He said, the Government on its part is already doling out ration cards to them. Sahni reminded that over two crore Bangladeshi infiltrators have fanned out throughout the country and are posing the threat of reducing local population to minority in certain districts in the country. This problem has already assumed alarming proportions in Sikkim, Tripura and certain other states of the North East.

The local BJP Chief and MPs charged the other political parties, Congress and Janata Dal in particular, of siding with the infiltrators, only for the sake of their vote banks. These political parties had no national interest in mind while opposing deportation of infiltrators, they said.

Pilotless Simulator Aircraft Tested at Chandipur

BK2309145092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Indian pilotless target aircraft Lakshya [target] has been successfully test-flown at Chandipur test range this week. The indigenously developed aircraft has so far test-flown 30 times and adequately established the soundness of the design and reliability of the system. The unmanned air vehicle flown by a remote controller from the ground carrying radar and infrared devices to simulate attacking aircraft. It can be reused 10 times.

Lakshya will soon be offered to the Army, Navy, and Air Force for their final evaluation before induction in their service. It has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment at Bangalore.

Iran

No'ed Brigade Holds Land, Sea Military Exercise

LD2409220592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Daredevils of the 65th No'ed Brigade [name as heard] in the Amir-Kabir dam heights and reservoir kicked off the big Piruzi land and sea military exercise with a demonstration of their power this morning.

According to a Central News Unit report, during the maneuvers, after ascending the heights and attacking the hypothetical enemy's coastlines by artillery and light arms fire and utilizing speedboats, No'ed commando brigade special forces torched the hypothetical enemy's positions and fortifications.

The maneuvers were executed with some of the martyrs' families, state and military authorities present. And the 65th No'ed Brigade's self-sacrifices during the eight years of holy defense were honored.

Reza'i Urges Defense of Territorial Integrity

NC2409065692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], spoke to a gathering of Basijis [Mobilization Corps] and IRGC forces and to families of martyrs, missing, and POW's of the imposed war, lauding the devotion of the selfless forces of the Basij, IRGC, and Armed Forces during the eight years of sacred defense.

Reza'i, speaking during sacred Defense Week, pointed out that the imposed war proved the worthiness, capability, and efficiency of the Islamic Republic of Iran as an Islamic power in the region and told the Basijis and the selfless IRGC forces: The Iranian Armed Forces should always be ready to devotedly defend the Islamic revolution and the territorial integrity of the Islamic nation.

Concluding, the IRGC commander in chief stressed the importance of preserving the values and cultural heritage of the eight years of sacred defense.

Khamene'i Stresses Importance of Friday Prayers

LD2409144392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, met with Friday prayer leaders from all over the country this morning, the last day of their eighth seminar.

During this meeting, Khamene'i described the arrogant powers' prepared and orderly movement against Islam and Muslim nations. To counter this, he stressed the need for vigilance, unity, and solidarity of the Islamic ummah, as well as refraining from ethnic and religious conflicts. Khamene'i considered that vigilance on Muslims' part was a threat to the interests of hegemonous and tyrannical powers in the sensitive parts of the world.

He said: Islam's enemies realized clearly that Muslim nations intend, with all their might, to stand against the

world of bullying and greed in order to fulfill their principles and fundamental values. But arrogant powers are today benefiting from complex propaganda and highly devious political moves and lined up against Islam and are endeavoring to achieve their abject objectives by maintaining appearances and refraining from open opposition to Islam.

Khamene'i noted that the silence of European powers in the face of Serbian ruthlessness and crimes against the Bosnian Muslims is clear evidence of the existence of a secret and complex movement to confront the Islamic ummah.

He said: Tens of thousands of innocent people, including women, children, the elderly, and civilians, have lost their lives as a result of the deployment of a variety of weapons in a matter of months—in the heart of an apparently civilized Europe. The indifference of European governments towards this blatant genocide is a sign of the grudge and enmity of these countries towards Islam and Muslims; in reality, being Muslim and loving Islam is the only reason why the Bosnian people have been killed.

Khamene'i said that the Islamic government's reliance on the people and the fact that the Islamic system benefits from the nation's confidence has created difficulties for greedy America and Britain to achieve their sinister designs.

The esteemed leader said that holding tight to the divine rope, eliminating difference, and maintining alertness and unity of the Islamic ummah were necessary for the task of standing steadfast in the face of the ploys and plots hatched by the enemies of Islam. He added: Everyone should contribute towards unity and friendship among Muslims in their speeches, behavior, interpretations, and talks. Today there is need for vigilance, alertness, and unity of the nation and greater strengthening of contacts between people and officials, as well as cooperation aimed at preserving and strengthening the system and to this end. Friday prayers are very important.

Elsewhere in his speech, Khamene'i said that the Friday prayer is a great blessing from God. He stressed the need to enlighten people in religious and political knowledge in Friday prayer ceremonies and said: In contrast to many other societies, our society is a political one in which the masses have a good grasp of international political issues. Friday prayers leaders should raise political consciousness and increase people's abilities to analyze politics since, in this way, people will find the correct path on their own and the enemy will not achieve its goals.

The eminent leader also said that Friday prayers is a venue for displaying the political resolve of society; displaying fraternal sentiment and earnestness among people; and a place for solving some social problems and eliminating certain anxieties and concerns stemming from poisoners and false propoganda of Islam's enemies.

In conclusion, he referred to the enemies of Islam's grief and sorrow due to Friday prayer ceremonies being held all the more splendidly. He called for the extensive presence of the faithful and Muslim masses of our country at the ideological-politcal Friday prayer ceremonies.

Agriculture Minister Announces Production Increase

LD2409102692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Output of strategically important farm products will increase to 27.6 million tonnes during the current agricultural year, an increase of 3 million tonnes over the corresponding figure for the preceding agricultural year.

Announcing the above in an interview with reporters today, Agricultural Minister Kalantari added that during the current agricultural year total wheat production rose to 10.36 million tonnes—up by 17 percent over the estimate in the plan. He said barley production increased 14 percent, rice 27 percent, sugar beet 9.5 percent, potatoes 6 percent, and pulses 44 percent.

He said that the aggregate output of the above items showed an average increase of more than 12 percent over the estimates in the plan.

Continuing his interview, the minister of agriculture said that the only items showing production declines were corn, which fell by 27 percent, and cotton by 10 percent.

At the end of his interview, he attributed the increase in farm production to greater efforts by the farmers, timely provision of agricultural input, and a 260-mm increase in rainfall.

Tehran Radio Says U.S. Waging 'Propaganda War'

LD2409173592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The United States is waging a new propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran by speaking of Iran's purchase of certain military hardware from Russia, to which the United States has voiced its opposition.

Pentagon officials said today: Russia has sold submarines to Iran despite Washington's opposition, which is a matter of concern to the United States. Further, the NEW YORK TIMES, citing an official U.S. Defense Department spokesperson, wrote today: Iran has purchased from Russia a number of fighters in addition to these submarines.

According to the NEW YORK TIMES, the United States has also criticized Russia for selling a nuclear reactor to Iran. Washington had previously asked Moscow not to do this. In its propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is ostensibly addressed to the countries of the

Persian Gulf, the White House said: The hardware received by Iran is a cause of danger to the Persian Gulf region.

Amrollahi Participates in IAEA General Debate

LD2409213792 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 22, IRNA—While initiatives for the prevention of nuclear proliferation as well as enhanced control and verification mechanisms should be applied and enforced without discrimination, they should not impede legitimate and peaceful development programmes, said the vice-president of the Islamic Republic and president of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO), Reza Amrollahi.

Amrollahi, who is also President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's deputy, was speaking here Tuesday during the general debate at the general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He said that "in Islam, knowledge and virtue are one and the same thing since knowledge without virtue is meaningless...Knowledge without virtue in the nuclear field would not present any assurances for the well-being of society. The best proof of this, of course, are the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki".

Amrollahi emphasized that the conference should note and condemn the atrocities perpetrated against European Muslims in Bosnia- Hercegovina.

"The sheer magnitude of the tragedies in the Balkans required urgent and decisive preventive responses from the Security Council as well as the European Community.

"However, not only such responses were not forthcoming but even the human-rights activists and organizations, usually vocal on much more mundane issues remained silent".

Islamic Iran, he continued, fully subscribed to the campaign against the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as a noble cause.

"We support this on humanitarian grounds and also for the simple reason that during the recent past Iran has been the only state which suffered the deployment of chemical weapons against its people", he added.

Amrollahi acknowledged the justified concerns about proliferation of such weapons are a direct consequence of misguided policies of certain regimes.

"Let us not forget, however, that also to blame are the industrialized states which knowingly, or unwittingly, assisted the development of 'parallel' programmes in such states. Nevertheless such belated policies, if indeed effective in stemming the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will have our full support", he remarked.

Iran was the first state to propose the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East and continues to promote this issue.

Obstacles to the successful implementation of non-proliferation treaty (NPT), the agency full-scope safeguards system and a NWFZ treaty still remain, added Amrollahi.

Nuclear weapons states party to the NPT never completely fulfilled their obligations, be it related to technical support of peaceful nuclear programs in developing states, or on the opposite side of the spectrum, preventing the transfer of nuclear materials and technology to states suspect of aspiring to 'parallel' programmes.

The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) noted that neither pressure nor any form of sanctions were brought to bear against states with well-known 'parallel' nuclear programmes to accede to the NPT. There have also been cases where regimes with well-known and entirely non-peaceful nuclear programs were allowed to proceed unimpeded.

"In this context, well-researched and authoritative documents, based on credible sources, are available which describe how Israel developed its nuclear weapons with full knowledge and tacit approval of some, if not all, of the nuclear-weapon states", he pointed out.

He said states not party to the NPT never felt obliged to accept the agency's full-scope safeguards regime but in some cases agreed to voluntary-type safeguards agreements which only served to burden the already strained IAEA budget.

Amrollahi observed: "Ironically Israel and other states not party to the NPT and thus beyond the verification mandate of the agency, were allowed to remain IAEA members and even benefit from its technical assistance.

"Indeed how could one reasonably expect various regions become free of nuclear weapons when states within those regions have already acquired nuclear weapons clandestinely and persistently refuse to forfeit that option.

"Regrettably the NPT depositories neglected to prevent the clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapons on regional bases. Whether this has been a pure political negligence or some sort of favouritism the fact remains that it has provided incentive for the neighbouring states to seek parity".

The Israeli regime has for years arrogantly defied nuclear control and verification while a number of states including those in the Middle East have recently sought adherence to the instruments of nuclear control and verification.

Amrollahi said: "This trend has made the position of Israel, vis-a-vis the proliferation issue, much more isolated and its negative stance, in the face of present trends, even more unacceptable and inexplicable.

"In seeking a way out of this isolation the Zionist-dominated news media and institutions, as well officials of the Israeli regime have embarked on a propaganda campaign, highlighting the weaponization programs of certain Middle East states including the Islamic Republic of Iran".

He referred to the statement made by an Israeli official in June "whereby he predicts with amazing foresight that Iran would within ten years develop nuclear weapons. He then justifies military action on the strength of such absurd deductions".

The vice-president added that the agency circulated Iran's response to the blatant Israeli threat.

The IAEA mission to Iran in February and the subsequent agency reports proved that the Islamic Republic's nuclear programmes contrary to adverse publicity are entirely peaceful.

"We invited the agency mission to visit Iran under our own initiative and the invitation remains open since we do not intend to hide anything. Such openness and transparency should be reciprocated by support in implementing peaceful programmes not by the imposition of more stringent restrictions", he noted.

Referring to the Bushehr nuclear power plant which the German Government refused to provide the export licences for the completion of the plant, Amrollahi said that billions of dollars has been invested while the cost of its maintenance is an ongoing financial burden.

Restrictions were imposed in spite of the award of the ICC [International Chamber of Commerce] which compels the supplier to complete the plant or hand over outstanding components and documents to Iran.

The Iranian official said: "We believe that given the adverse environomental consequences of utilizing fossil fuels, hydro and nuclear energies are the only practicable alternative for generating electric power on a large scale.

"The developing states, having accepted all the required control and verification mechanisms should therefore not be deprived from this option through unfair and arbitrary restrictions".

Amrollahi announced that cooperation agreements were recently signed between Iran and China, and also with the Russian Federation, within the framework of international rules and standards including IAEA safeguards.

Amrollahi on Nuclear Free Zone

LD2409180692 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 23, IRNA—Vice President of the Islamic Republic and President of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (IAEO) Reza Amrollahi told IRNA Wednesday that the Director General of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix had expressed optimism that a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) could be realised within the next two years.

Earlier Amrollahi at a press briefing said that the four nuclear power plants Iran intends to purchase from the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China have a capacity of less than one unit of the partly completed Bushehr nuclear power plant.

He said that last month a general agreement was signed in Tehran between the Islamic Republic and the Russian Federation for the construction and operation of two VVER-440-213 [water cooled, water-moderated reactor] type nuclear power plant units in Iran.

He also referred to negotiations with the People's Republic of China for the purchase of two 300 megawatt Westinghouse-type reactors designed and manufactured mostly by the Chinese. A general agreement was signed with Chinese side when Amrollahi visited China recently.

However, no contracts have been signed with either the Russian Federation or China. "We have had the opportunity for commercial contacts—they were in the negotiations stage," Amrollahi said.

"We believe in full-scope safeguards and we try to be very open and transparent, as we should".

He pointed out that Iran lacked diverse energy resources apart from oil and gas. It did not have sufficient water resources for hydro-electric generation. "At the moment the best use of gas is for heating purposes in towns and districts since it is clean and we would prefer to save it for the cities and some for export".

There were power shortages, and there is need for additional electrical generating capacity for factories. Iran's objective is to have nuclear power plants for electricity and for desalination plants.

Commenting on the Bushehr project Amrollahi said "that the court of arbitration had already decided that the Germans should complete the work and in case we decided not to give them the contract they are obliged to provide blueprints and equipment to any other contractor we decide".

Regarding applying the ruling, talks had taken place but there are "some difficulties" he acknowledged. He added "we hope to solve this problem in the future".

The vendors claim that they are unable to obtain export licences for completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant while the German government speaks of "difficulties".

Answering a question of the risk that Iran would be exposed to if the Bushehr project were completed Amrollahi referred to the first nuclear bomb strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "If they did something wrong it does not mean that everyone should quit".

The Israelis bombed the Iraqi nuclear plant at Tammuz regardless of the [word indistinct] and safeguards. "I think they are violent...If the Iraqis did exactly the same, it does not mean everybody should quit. It's the same for the Germans because they have also nuclear power plants...It can happen to them, to any other party".

Amrollahi suggested a nuclear-weapon-free zone as the answer. Iran supported a NWFZ in the Middle East, he added.

Velayati Meets Sudanese Counterpart, Others at UN

NC2509070592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati met with the Sudanese foreign minister at the UN headquarters yesterday. During this visit, both sides discussed the problems of the Persian Gulf, Palestine, and the Arab world and ways to strengthen solidarity in Islam. They also covered a recent meeting between both countries' presidents in Jakarta and cooperation within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Velayati held separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Poland, Ireland, Spain, and Argentina to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

Cleric Notes 'Irrevocable' Abu Musa Policy

LD2509114392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The Friday prayers were held today concurrent with the fourth day holy Defense Week, the day of unity and mobilization [basij]. Various members of society participated at the meeting places of monotheism. This eternal Muhammadan ritual was held in Tehran under the imamate of Ayatollah Jannati, the interim Friday imam of Tehran. The people and model units of military, law enforcement, and mobilization forces also participated.

Ayatollah Jannati honored the holy Defense Week and recalled the Iranian brave people's eight years of self-sacrifice and devotion in defense of the righteous aspirations of their Islamic homeland and described the grounds for starting the war. Stressing that the courageous eight-year resistance against an aggression led by America was unprecedented in the history of the world, he said: The people of Iran, with a newly born regime, were attacked under such conditions that great problems would have arisen were it not for divine blessings; the leadership of the late imam [Khomeyni]; the self-sacrifice of the heroic Guards, Army, and mobilization; and the active presence of the people.

Underlining the fact that our revolution is a revolution of values, he said: We defended these values and every inch of our homeland, and we will continue to do so. We must thank all the strata of the people who defended the revolution and the nation against the enemies' evil designs through self-sacrifice, devotion, and with no regard for their welfare.

He referred to the formation of mobilization forces as a very positive outcome of the imposed war and stressed the need to pay greater attention to the faithful mobilization forces.

Speaking of the recent troublemaking by America regarding the Iranian island of Abu Musa, Jannati described Iran's policy concerning this issue as fixed and irrevocable. Stressing good-neighborly relations with our neighbors, he said: We seek the unity of all Muslims. At the same time, we will defend our rights. Let America know that if we were scared, we would have lost the eight-year war. Now, all countries know that with the resistance of the people and reliance on God, they can succeed against America.

Speaking of the desperate situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Ayatollah Jannati said: The Muslims of that land are surrounded and suffering under very harsh conditions. We must continue to help them. [passage omitted]

Firm Stand on Abu Musa, Wariness of West Urged

NC2009143192 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 6 Sep 92 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "National Security and the Need for Greater Vigilance"]

[Excerpts] A new era of suspicious and underhanded political and propaganda moves against Iran to destabilize the Persian Gulf region has been initiated in various spheres. The covert hands of the West can be perceived clearly in these moves. It would be naive to think that such issues are spontaneous and incidental.

The starting point for these issues can be seen in a minor incident which the Western mass media are covering extensively so it will develop into a complicated problem. [passage omitted]

The West usually capitalizes on potential sources of conflict and problems. This is part of this powerful bloc's strategy. The Persian Gulf war, which culminated to a great extent in the sweeping presence of the West in the region, created conditions for even greater interference by the West. The United States is seeking to implement policies which will enable it to control the pulse of the region's security completely, and is therefore apprehensive of every kind of action that may boost an independent security arrangement by the region's countries.

Some influential and covert Western elements, which have infiltrated the region's mass media and even are present among their politicians, have embarked on the practical implementation of scenarios which aim to disrupt the trend toward normalization in the region and

the emergence of a possible independent regional security system among the littoral Persian Gulf countries.

Creating political problems for Iran is an integral part of the U.S. regional policy, which is linked to some important factors. The first factor is the set of collective circumstances prevailing in the region, which are characterized by ambiguity as regards the future.

The second factor is Iran's political direction as regards international relations.

The third factor is the regional conflicts among the smaller and greater powers of the area.

In light of the above factors, which are linked to our national interests, we can seek to adopt a more principled policy in this regard.

As regards the Abu Musa incident, the implementation of Iran's sovereignty within the framework of the 1971 accord has created critical conditions, for which the United States and its allies are responsible. The objective is quite obvious. What is important in this context is that there are some other concerted and coordinated actions which may be mentioned in this regard.

Some regional economic organizations recently have begun disseminating, according to some calculated plans, premeditated false ideas by popularizing some economic goods. Matchboxes featuring a map of the region have been distributed and are being sold in all of Iran's southern cities. This undoubtedly was done for political reasons and is part of the policies which have been pursued in the region for the past few years.

The Yemeni prime minister used the ambiguous term "Arabian Gulf" during his speech in Jakarta, and the Iranian delegation at the UN Headquarters in Geneva filed an objection over the use of this term.

If we were to assess the above issues in light of the events in the region, we would conclude that a series of political and propaganda actions are taking shape aimed at the following:

1. Generating instability in Iran's relations with regional countries.
2. Creating conditions for a possible crisis in the Persian Gulf region.
3. Pressuring Iran to change its regional policies.
4. Prompting Iran to react strongly against regional countries.
5. Assessing Iran's political direction.

All these factors undoubtedly confirm and clarify our appraisal of the events [in the region].

The main point regarding Iran's policies is that it should intensively assess its national interests. Relations between Iran and the regional countries should have a strong and active framework and one must refrain greatly from being too simplistic. This strength in forging relations is possible only when we can support our rights within the framework of our national interests.

Asserting our national sovereignty over Abu Musa Island is a principled reaction which should continue in tandem with the government's activities in this regard. Our diplomats and our mass media also should strive to expose such plots and their domestic and external repercussions.

Greater awareness in Iran and in the region can prevent future predetermined actions by foreign powers.

Another important issue is to identify the objectives and instruments of propaganda. It indeed is regrettable that matchboxes should be circulated in Iran's southern cities with the ambiguous term "Arabian Gulf" on them, and we should react since they have been extensively circulated. [passage omitted]

Daily Asks If Saddam Should Resign From Politics

LD2209231292 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Tuesday commenting on the 12th anniversary of the Iraqi imposed war against Iran (September 22, 1980) asked whether it was not better for Saddam to "resign from politics and leave the scene for a popular government."

The paper pointed to the "dream of the Iraqi president, who used to call himself commander of Qadessiey [as received], for a three-day victory in Iran," which according to the daily, turned into "an eight-year nightmare."

It noted that Saddam staged the war to "topple" the newly-born Islamic Revolution within a "short period," without considering the "strong will" of the Iranian Muslims.

Referring to the financial and military support of Iraq by Eastern and Western powers as well as the Persian Gulf Arab states, it added that Saddam never understood he was a "puppet or a tool in the hands of alien powers just for suppression of the Islamic revolution."

"Now due to Saddam's mistakes, Iraq is on the verge of disintegration. The country's economy is ruined. Once a nation, now the Iraqi people are separated by security zones. The ruling Ba'ath party is so weak that whatever Washington dictates, it obeys."

Al-Qadhdhafi's Remarks on Iraqi Shiites Viewed

NC1909082092 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Unexpected, Although Not Unpredictable"]

[Text] Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned the Arab states of the Persian Gulf to resist the

emergence of a Shiite entity in Iraq which, in his opinion, would be a "hotbed of revolution" manipulated by Iran.

In a speech broadcast by the Libyan television, al-Qadhdhafi stated that the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Arab states in the Persian Gulf were not traitors, but that they had lost their will to resist, since they were endorsing the creation of a Shiite entity in southern Iraq which would imperil their own survival.

Al-Qadhdhafi went on to express other opinions on the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which are not relevant to the topic discussed in this editorial and will have to be taken up in a separate article.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's remarks were unexpected in one sense, though they must be considered as quite predictable in another sense. The remarks were predictable insofar as Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has often adopted contradictory stances during his lengthy leadership of Libya. And in fact present anxiety for the governments of the Arab states in the Persian Gulf represents a glaring contradiction of his previous foreign policies. The world public opinion still remembers al-Qadhdhafi's endorsement of the occupation of Kuwait by Saddam Husayn, while today he surprises the world by his concern for the survival of the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.

Nevertheless, al-Qadhdhafi's recent remarks were unexpected, for it was never expected of a statesman such as al-Qadhdhafi to be encouraging sectarianism in the world Islamic community.

He is in fact suggesting that only the Shiite Muslims are revolutionaries, implying that the Sunni Muslims are conservatives or reactionaries. And this is of course an unforgivable insult to all Muslims of the world, including the Libyan Muslim nation. Does Colonel al-Qadhdhafi really believe, for instance, that the Afghani Mojahedin, most of them Sunnis, are not revolutionaries? And what of the Muslim fighters in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia? Aren't they Sunni Muslims?

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi knows very well that segregating the various Muslim groups is playing right into the hands of the enemies of Islam. Portraying a menacing picture of the Shiite Muslims is the scheme devised by CIA and MOSAD, after the deadly blow they received from the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the Islamic movement in southern Lebanon. The principal objective of the scheme is of course to create differences among the leaders of the Islamic world, and to obstruct the establishment of relations of understanding among them.

As far as Iran is concerned, the territorial integrity of Iraq should be preserved, and Iran is against any kind of disintegration of Iraq.

Pakistan

'Heavy' Fire Exchanged With Indian Troops

BK2409145092 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 24 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] Muzaffarabad—India and Pakistan exchanged heavy fire in Abbaspur in Poonch sector, 400 km south of the state capital Muzaffarabad. Due to firing some houses and crops were damaged.

This is the second time in less than 24 hours that both countries exchanged heavy fire. Three persons were injured who were rushed to the local hospital. A woman Robina who had sustained bullet wounds in her chest has been undergoing medical treatment in CMH [Combined Military Hospital], Rawalpindi.

Air Force Approves Purchase of French Fighter

BK2309140792 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad (PPI)—The Pakistan Air Force [PAF] has finally okayed the purchase of Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft from France and submitted a feasibility report in this regard to the government.

According to reliable sources, the PAF is presently looking for 40 Mirage-2000. Now it is up to the government to see if it is in a position to buy the same number of Mirages from France, they added.

The sources said the PAF pilots had carried out several test flights of Mirage-2000 before the air force okayed the purchase of the aircraft. Negotiations between the governments of Pakistan and France were presently underway on the issue, they said, adding that it, however, could not be predicted at this stage as to when Pakistan would finally get these aircraft.

Replying to a question, the sources said that Mirage-2000 would prove to be the best replacement of the F-16 aircraft which were not being supplied to the PAF by the United States due to the Pressler Amendment.

The sources said Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroz Khan, during his forthcoming meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary for Defense James R. Lilley, was also likely to raise the issue of the non-supply of 11 F-16s to Pakistan for which Pakistan had already made the payment.

The air chief would be returning to Islamabad today (September 23) at the end of his ten-day visit to Britain. The sources were hopeful that the professional relations between the air forces of the two countries would further strengthen as a result of Farooq Feroz's visit to Britain.

French Defense Minister Meets Khan, Sharif, Shah

BK2409154492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They discussed ways to further promote cooperation between Pakistan and France in economic, technical and defense fields. The French minister conveyed to the president the deep sympathies of President Mitterrand over the devastation caused by recent torrential rains in Pakistan. Khan appreciated the French president's sentiments and thanked him for the relief given to the flood-affected people. Joxe also called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

The French minister also had a meeting with Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah and held talks with him on enhancing Pakistan-France cooperation in defense and other fields.

[In a similiar report, Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English at 1100 GMT on 24 Sep added the following: "The visiting American assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, Mr. James Lilley, also called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. They discussed ways to promote peace and security in the region and matters of bilateral interest."]

Sri Lankan President Arrives on Two-Day Visit

BK2309110992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Madame Premadasa were accorded a very warm welcome when they arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a two-day visit to Pakistan. President and Mrs. Ghulam Ishaq Khan greeted the distinguished guests at the airport. A 21-gun salute boomed in the air as the Sri Lankan president deplaned. A contingent of the three services presented the guard of honor to President Premadasa, which was followed by a march. Later, the distinguished guest was introduced to National Assembly Speaker Syed Gauhar Ayub Khan; Senate Deputy Chairperson Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai; federal ministers; elected representatives; and representatives of the diplomatic corps. President Premadasa will meet the president at the presidential palace this evening. Khan will then host a banquet in honor of the distinguished guest.

Khan on Kashmiris; Premadasa on Ties

BK2409033492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan called on India to stop its futile efforts to coerce the Kashmiris into submission and begin a serious dialogue with Pakistan for resolving the Kashmir problem. Speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honor of the visiting Sri Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, in Islamabad tonight, he said solution of the Kashmir problem will help in securing permanent peace in South Asia and contribute to strengthening of international peace and security. The president said instead of accepting the legitimate demand of the Kashmiris, India has tried to crush them by deploying nearly half a million troops and paramilitary purposes who have perpetrated harrowing atrocities against innocent people despite protests voiced by the international community.

Referring to the Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the two countries are bound by historic links dating back to the Gandhara civilization. These links have been reinforced in modern times by their common perception of regional and international situation. Pakistan and Sri Lanka, he said, seek identical goals of progress and prosperity at home and peace and stability in the region and the world at large.

In his speech, President Premadasa said Sri Lanka values Pakistan as a good neighbor and cherishes its friendship. On international issues, he said both countries hold identical position as they are fully committed to principles of the Nonaligned Movement. Turning to SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation], the Sri Lankan president said member countries have focused attention on core areas of cooperation and are fully committed to give preferential treatment to one another in trade. He found himself in agreement with Pakistan's point of view that no state should seek unfair advantage over the other.

Joint Statement Issued

BK2409154592 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Pakistan and Sri Lanka have expressed satisfaction over the evolution of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] as an effective forum for enhancing regional cooperation among member states in economic, technical, and cultural fields. This has been stated in a joint press statement issued in Islamabad today at the end of an official visit to Pakistan by the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The two countries reiterated the resolve to make concerted efforts to give further impetus to SAARC activities. They agreed that SAARC should make special efforts to promote cooperation in areas likely to benefit the less-privileged sections of the peoples of South Asia. The two countries expressed the hope that the forthcoming seventh summit in Dhaka will evolve further guidelines for achieving the objectives of SAARC. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and the Sri Lankan president reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen and further expand the close friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Joint Economic Committee may be held in Islamabad early next year. The committee should explore and agree

to open new schemes and projects for diversifying economic cooperation. It was further agreed that representatives of private sector industry and commerce should examine the prospects of collaboration and joint ventures in industrial and commercial spheres.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, President Ranasinghe Premadasa underlined the need for resolving the regional issues through dialogue. He said if we are able to remove fears and suspicions, it would ultimately lead to resolving bilateral issues. SAARC, he said, can be a proper forum to bring about some understanding regarding the genuineness of our concern.

Replying to a question, Mr. Premadasa said we are trying to create conditions for peaceful coexistence and believe in resolving problems through negotiations. Mr. Premadasa underlined the need for promotion of greater cooperation among SAARC countries. He said he had a detailed discussion with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, on poverty alleviation. He lauded the program launched in Pakistan to root out poverty.

Mr. Premadasa said that by exploiting the human and natural resources, the SAARC countries could double their per capita income over the next 10 years. He said through closer regional cooperation, SAARC nations need to exploit the potential of 1 billion-strong mass market in our region.

The president of Sri Lanka was given a hearty send-off when he left Islamabad for Nepal after a two-day visit to Pakistan. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, saw him off at the airport. The Sri Lankan president shook hands with those who came to say goodbye. They included chairman of the Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; deputy chairman of the Senate; federal ministers; high-ranking officials; and members of the diplomatic corps. He was then conducted to the base where he took salute from a contingent representing the three services. National anthems of Sri Lanka and Pakistan were played. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, the chief of army staff, the chief of naval staff, and the chief of air staff were also present. Mr. Premadasa warmly shook hands with the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, before boarding the plane. Twenty-one guns boomed as he boarded the plane.

Government Reiterates Nonproliferation Commitment

BK2409152892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated its firm and unequivocal commitment to nuclear nonproliferation at the global and regional levels. This was stated by the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad, while addressing the 36th regular session of general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna. He said Pakistan is convinced that regional arrangements offer a constructive and (?mutually) reinforcing approach to realize the ideal of nuclear nonproliferation and has been forcefully advocating nuclear-weapon- free zone in South Asia since 1972. Spelling out Pakistan's unwavering stand on the issue of nonproliferation, he referred to last year's prime minister's proposal for a five-nation conference to evolve an agreed arrangement to ensure nuclear nonproliferation in the region. He said Pakistan is also prepared to directly negotiate with India on the nuclear nonproliferation issue.

Advocating improvement in the international safeguards system, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad emphasized that this should be effected without sacrificing peaceful applications of nuclear technology, which form a vital objective of the IAEA. He said it was equally important to ensure that the future amendments in the safeguards regime was not politically motivated. The IAEA, being an arm of the United Nations, should fully respect sovereignty of all nations regardless of their status, geographic locations, or ethno-cultural designs, he commented. He emphasized that the denial of nuclear technology to certain countries in the name of nonproliferation proved to be completely futile and counterproductive. He stressed that the cause of nonproliferation could be served more effectively through cooperation rather than through embargoes on nuclear technology.

Daily Criticizes U.S. 'Pressure' on Nuclear Issue

BK2409072492 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Sep 92 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Knocks Again, New Wave of Pressures?"]

[Text] James Lilley, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for International Security Affairs, is visiting Pakistan this week ostensibly for "discussions" with officials of the Pakistan government. Given the fact that amongst other responsibilities, Lilley deals with the formulation of the American Department of Defense Policies on Nonproliferation, it would seeem as if there will be less discussion and more pressurization.

After all, the position of the two governments on the nuclear issue should be clear to at least the government functionaries concerned. For Pakistan, going beyond its offer to participate in a regional nonproliferation arrangement would mean a serious compromise on national security. The Americans for their part find Pakistan an ideal state to "teach a lesson to" over the issue of nuclear proliferation. After all Pakistan is an activist Muslim state with a questionable record on democracy and human rights and all these factors make it acceptable in the eyes of the West, as a target of American interventionism and bullying.

As for the claim that Lilley's visit is part of the ongoing dialogue between the two states on issues of mutual interest, surely it is high time one questioned what the

"mutual interest" of the two states is. American interests in the region Pakistan straddles, which have been made abundantly clear, lie in strengthening India a regional actor in South Asia and building a potential defense alliance with the Gulf states to counter Iran's regional role in the Persian Gulf region. This means undermining the politico-military capabilities of both Pakistan and Iran.

In addition, America clearly sees the potential of a nuclear weapons capable Pakistan as a threat to its regional interests as well its global policy agenda. Therefore, it has maintained a steady pressure on successive Pakistani governments to compromise Pakistan's nuclear programme. Numerous officials and unofficial channels have been utilised for this purpose—ranging from visits by American civil and military officials to academics and politicians. More critical, military sales have been suspended, despite the Pakistan government having committed funds for these purchases.

So far, these pressure tactics have failed to elicit a commitment by Pakistan to abandon its nuclear programme and unilaterally sign the NPT [Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty]. Yet, the Americans obviously feel that they are getting somewhere with their offensive against Pakistan's nuclear programme. This view is no doubt based upon the commonly held assumption that Pakistan has agreed to two major concessions in realation to its nuclear policy; one, that it will freeze its programme, and two, that it will not export knowledge or technology relating to the nuclear field to Iran.

If this is correct, Americans are justified in assuming that if pressure is continued then gradually they can wear down the Pakistanis to total submission on the nuclear issue. Meanwhile, the Pakistani decision-makers seem to feel it proper to keep tight- lipped on this issue and keep the nation in ignorance. All that this does is to heighten public suspicion on exactly what has been compromised by the Pakistani ruling elites.

The situation is further aggravated when numerous Pakistani delegations go to the U.S. in efforts to seek the resumption of aid. Since details of what transpired on these visits is never revealed to the people—except indirectly through the American press at times— the suspicion of severe compromises having been made is naturally heightened.

In this environment, while there is overtly no harm in continuing a dialogue with the US the Pakistani government must be clear on its policy objectives and keep the nation informed about the contents of these dialogues. In any event, there has to be some common ground on which dialogue has to be based, unfortunately.